

*Statements by Ministers*

[English]

The Commonwealth leaders' meeting in Nassau also addressed in some detail the current international economic situation and Canada was honoured to make the lead statement in this discussion. I was pleased to be able to report to Commonwealth leaders that at the recent World Bank-IMF meeting in Seoul, Canada was successful in maintaining preferential lending conditions under the International Development Association for smaller Commonwealth Caribbean countries. During the economic discussions in Nassau Canada ensured that increased Commonwealth resources will be applied to activities aimed at integrating women's concerns with all of the organization's activities. I also advised Commonwealth leaders that Canada will contribute \$50 million over the next three years to the Commonwealth fund for technical co-operation.

Finally, the meeting in Nasseau provided a welcome opportunity for me to meet with a group of leaders of countries with which Canada has a special relationship, the Commonwealth Caribbean. When I last met with leaders of these countries in Jamaica in February they asked, as they had asked over a number of years, for Canada's co-operation and for a special degree of understanding and comprehension of their problems in this hemisphere, and we have discussed this in the House, in dealing with a wide variety of trade problems. In Nassau, at a special meeting with them, I was pleased to advise the Caribbean leaders that Canada is responding with a wide variety of practical and concrete measures. These include the establishment of a one-way duty-free trade arrangement, which will cover 99 per cent of Caribbean exports to Canada; an amendment to Canadian legislation, which will permit the bottling of unblended rum in Canada; the development of a sourcing directory of Commonwealth Caribbean manufacturing and export capacity to assist Caribbean exports to Canada; the establishment of a system to enable Caribbean trade commissioners access to DRIE offices; and 50 new scholarships in Canada for students from the Commonwealth Caribbean area. In addition, air agreements were signed between Canada and the Governments of Jamaica, Barbados, and St. Kitts-Nevis. This was an illustration of a special responsibility that Canada has and accepts with regard to special areas of focus in the Commonwealth. We accepted that responsibility on behalf of all Members of the House, and I am delighted to report to all Members the satisfaction with which Canadian intervention in these vital areas was received by fellow Commonwealth members in the Caribbean.

The success of the Commonwealth Conference in Nassau itself, Mr. Speaker, was for me a first experience and a moving reaffirmation of the value of this very unique and special international organization. At the close of the Conference I extended Canada's invitation for the Commonwealth heads of Government to hold their next meeting in Canada in 1987, and I am pleased to announce that we expect this important meeting will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** It was a choice between Vancouver and Manicouagan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, in my speech to the United Nations' General Assembly last Wednesday I addressed briefly five key issues of great importance to Canadians. I reconfirmed on behalf of all Members of Parliament the central role of both multilateral diplomacy and the United Nations in Canadian foreign policy. On behalf of all Canadians I expressed the hope that the upcoming Geneva talks between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev will indeed set the world on the road towards a significant reduction in the nuclear arsenals on both sides. I reported briefly to the General Assembly on the conclusions reached at Nassau amongst Commonwealth heads of Government on a program of common action aimed at putting an end to apartheid. In light of continuing incidents of international terrorism, which has again been discussed in this House, I called for strong and co-operative action among nations to deal with this bane to the existence of civilized societies.

Finally, both in my address to the UN and later, in a separate UNICEF ceremony, I confirmed that Canada has committed an additional \$25 million as our contribution to the UN target of world-wide universal immunization by 1990. If that target is reached the lives of as many as five million infants and children will be saved every year.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** This is another indication of the unglamorous work which UN agencies do and do not always get recognition for. It was an important opportunity to draw attention to that magnificent work performed by so many people on behalf of those who sometimes do not have Parliaments, Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers to speak for them.

In New York I had meetings as well with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan. With Mr. Peres I discussed possible joint co-operation with Israel in civilian research and development projects. Mr. Peres outlined for me his current efforts to restore momentum to the Middle East peace process. Despite recent events in the region I am heartened by the sustained commitment of both Prime Minister Peres and King Hussein to the pursuit of a just and fair-minded negotiated peace settlement. I assured Mr. Peres that this process has Canada's strong and unwavering support.

The meeting with Mr. Nakasone, our third in eight months, enabled us to deepen our already excellent personal relationship to explore the particular perspective each of us brings to the principal economic and political issues of the moment. I outlined the Government's objectives in seeking a comprehensive trade agreement with the United States and I assured him that such an agreement, if indeed it comes to pass, would be fully consistent with our GATT obligations and would in no way diminish our excellent and growing relationships with