

The continuation of the tragic and senseless war between Iran and Iraq threatens the political and economic stability of the entire region. Canada strongly supports an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal to internationally recognized borders, and the initiation of negotiations towards a peaceful settlement. As a matter of policy we do not supply arms to either side. We urge both Iran and Iraq to make use of the UN Security Council's good offices to bring this war to an end. Canada is directly involved in alleviating the misery of those affected by this bloody confrontation and has repeatedly supported financially the International Committee of the Red Cross in their prisoner of war program between Iran and Iraq. Throughout this terrible conflict, Canada has been particularly active in urging both sides to respect international humanitarian law, especially with respect to the applicability of the Geneva Conventions. We are one of the nations in the world which can, by our word and by our example, assert the primacy of international order and respect for international law and institutions.

The same spirit has animated the Government's response to the scourge of international terrorism. We have pursued the fight against the most recent forms of terrorism along every avenue which showed promise of bearing fruit, bilaterally, as during Prime Minister Mulroney's most recent meeting with Mr. Peres, and multilaterally, as in the context of the Industrialized Summit at Tokyo and ICAO. The challenge in responding to terrorism is to enlarge the net of effective international action. That often collides with an individual nation's sense of sovereignty or its determination to pursue its own goals. But determination yields result, and this year, in the International Civil Aviation Organization, Canada was successful in having adopted a measure which extends to airports the powers of arrest and extradition which were previously confined to acts on aircraft themselves.

Canada has condemned Syrian involvement in the El Al bombing attempt. As you know we were the first country to support the British action after the Hindawi verdict. We recalled our Ambassador to Syria for consultations and he is still in Canada. When he does return to Damascus, he will carry a very firm message to the Syrian authorities on the unacceptability of support for and involvement in international terrorism. Western reaction to the Hindawi verdict has stung the Syrians. Let us pray that their future actions will reflect a desire to play a more constructive role in the family of nations.