

In a scrum June 24, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, following an expression of condolence over the loss of life in the Air India incident and a strong denunciation of international terrorism, stated that he had instructed the Interdepartmental committee on Security and Intelligence to "examine all aspects of airport and airline security and to report . . . as to what changes should be made to prevent such horrible recurrences in the future." While no nation could protect itself entirely from the possibility of a "wilful act of terrorism," Canada, added the Prime Minister, was strengthened in its commitment to a cooperative international effort to enhance security (External Affairs transcript, June 24, *Globe and Mail*, June 25). At the same time, the Prime Minister noted that Canadian airport security already ranked with the world's "most stringent."

Responding to questioning in the Commons June 25 on airport security, Mr. Mulroney reassured Parliament that the government had undertaken a reevaluation of existing security and surveillance systems, in light of recent events. As well, previously mentioned screening and

inspection measures had already been instituted. The Minister stressed that Canadian security efforts had hitherto been in excess of "minimum requirements advocated" by international conventions, and would continue to remain in "full compliance" with standard and recommended practice.

In a footnote to the Air India incident, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney responded in an open letter to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's expression of concern with regard to Canadian security and policy toward terrorism. Mr. Mulroney stated that Canada, while dealing "forcefully" with internal subversion, would deal "equally harshly with violence launched from our soil at any foreign nation" (*Globe and Mail*, July 11). However, he pointed out that Canada had, in the past, made a "sustained effort to monitor organizations suspected of activities inconsistent with Canadian law and with the friendly relations between Canada and India." Mr. Gandhi's condemnation of Canadian anti-terrorist efforts, in the "absence of constructive advice," would not help meet the terrorist challenge.

For the Record

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