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sibilities with regard to some problems such as battered women and child care.

It is clear that in any speech on the socio-economic equality for women, one cannot overemphasize the importance of federal-provincial interaction. Having said that, the international aspect of the problem should not be overlooked either. The United Nations decade for the promotion of women will be ending this year, 10 years during which Canada has spared no trouble to improve the condition of women within the framework of the United Nations. The decade will reach its climax in July at the United Nations World Conference on Women to be held in Nairobi, Kenya. My government is actively taking part in the planning of that conference which is aimed at reviewing and assessing the progress made and the problems met during the decade and drawing up strategies for the year 2000. The priority of Canada in Nairobi will be to try and achieve positive results by promoting the integration of women's issues in the national and international decision-making process. While the danger of a politicization attempt of the conference is real, we will try to prevent any obvious attempt in that direction. In spite of those difficult circumstances, you can be assured that the vitality and power of the feminist movement throughout the world will be felt this summer in Nairobi. In addition to the official intergovernmental conference, there will be a meeting of non governmental organizations (Forum 85) held in July. Canada knows that the United Nations decade for the promotion of women has been a quite successful period for non governmental organizations, because their concerns became the priority of many national governments and international organizations. We all took advantage of the new spirit of co-operation. Indeed, the government firmly intends to carry on that co-operation so that all our efforts towards social and economic equality for women will materialize.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments. The Hon. Member for Outremont.

Mrs. Pépin: Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear my colleague say that Canada has made every effort in the last ten years to promote women's equality. To say so is to recognize that the Liberal Party has definitely done something, indeed a great deal for the women of this country.

Naturally, the Hon. Member also said that since the election of the Progressive Conservative Government, maternity leave has been extended by 28 weeks. While I commend the Progressive Conservative Party for having extended maternity leave, I would like to ask the Hon. Member what the Conservative Government intends to do about day-care centres. I know that Mrs. Katy Cook was chairman of a task force on day care. The Minister has the report of this task force in her possession for many months and I would like to know what her Government intends to do about day-care centres since no mention has been made of this matter as yet.

Mrs. Landry: I thank my colleague for Outremont (Mrs. Pépin) on her very relevant question.

In my opinion, access to quality services is essential to ensure the economic security of women and our Government is well aware of it. As the Hon. Member said herself, the Cook report should be tabled soon, and following this report, our Government intends to create a task force to complete the study on day care, and we shall certainly have a recommendation to make in this regard in the very near future. The Hon. Member can be assured that our Government is very sensitive to the fact that women must have such security to go back to work, as this is certainly her concern.

Mrs. Pépin: Mr. Speaker, today is lobbying day for the NAC women's groups. One of the priorities at this time is definitely the day-care system. I have nothing against the fact that the Conservative Government will set up a task force on day care following the report just mentioned. However, in my opinion, before setting up such a task force, it would be very interesting to see Katy Cook's report to know exactly what she recommends. In addition, it might be better to implement Mrs. Katy Cook's recommendations instead of spending money on another task force, because reference of a question to a committee is very often a way to avoid coming to grips with a problem.

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is well aware that when a report is tabled, it is eventually put at the disposal of officials for further study. I think that the Government has every intention to use the Cook report as a basis for its policy, just as it does with all reports, to study it and legislate accordingly. This report will certainly play a major part when the time comes to prepare a legislation.

[English]

Mr. Belsher: Mr. Speaker, I find it somewhat surprising today that in this motion we are not dealing with the broader concepts, namely equality, development and peace. In her remarks the Parliamentary Secretary addressed the conference which will be held in Nairobi this summer, sponsored by the United Nations, to end the decade for women. Can the Parliamentary Secretary possibly outline a little more fully what our participation will be in this conference coming up this July?

[Translation]

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to my colleague the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Belsher) for his quite relevant question. As I mentioned earlier, I think that the conference held in Nairobi is of utmost importance for women throughout the world, a conference in which Canada will play a very significant role. I might add that Canada has indeed participated in all preparatory meetings leading to the Nairobi conference. Considering the high priority this government is giving to the status of women, I think that we must be present at this world conference in order to share with the other participating countries our expertise and