

THE HONOURABLE JOAN NEIMAN

FELICITATIONS ON RETURN TO CHAMBER

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Before Delayed Answers are called, if you will permit me, I want to say one word of welcome back to our colleague Senator Neiman, and to express all our happiness that she is in such good form.

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have replies to questions asked on February 23 by Senator Grafstein regarding Toronto as a possible international banking centre; again by Senator Grafstein on the War Crimes Tribunal; by Senator Bosa on the freezing of grants to municipalities; on February 24 by Senator Grafstein on the Vance/ Owen peace proposal; on February 25 by Senator Frith on child poverty; on March 2 by Senator Gigantès on Telefilm Canada; on March 3 by Senator Molgat on the crash of the Hercules aircraft; and on March 4 by Senator Molgat on the purchase of Telesat Canada.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO

DESIGNATION AS INTERNATIONAL BANKING CENTRE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Jeremiah S. Grafstein on February 23, 1993)

The International Banking Centres (IBC) established in Vancouver and Montreal are working - new business has come to Canada without the dire consequences for Toronto that some predicted.

There are no plans for an immediate expansion of the IBC System, either geographically or to include more activities.

However, the government is always monitoring the system and considering improvements. If the Honourable Senator has a serious proposal for its extension, the department of Finance would be pleased to consider it.

UNITED NATIONS

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Jeremiah S. Grafstein on February 23, 1993)

Canada fully endorses UN Security Council resolution 808 establishing an international tribunal to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. Since last August, Canada has repeatedly stressed the need for such a tribunal. Our commitment in this regard is clear.

While the Security Council resolution does not contain details of the institutional framework of the tribunal - its composition, procedures, location and jurisdiction - it does request the secretary-general to report back in 60 days on how the tribunal might function.

Canada is sponsoring an international meeting of experts to consider the establishment of an international criminal court, including the question of an ad hoc tribunal, in Vancouver from March 22 to 26. This meeting will address many of the questions raised by the Senator - such as composition and structure of the tribunal.

While the jurisdiction of the tribunal is not yet fixed, the Security Council resolution mentions grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions (war crimes) and other violations of international humanitarian law. In particular, the resolution refers to ethnic cleansing and to the sexual assault of Muslim women in the former Yugoslavia.

Within the UN and Canada the collection of information on allegations of war crimes has already begun:

On January 12, Canada established an Information Coordinator to receive substantiated information on violations of international humanitarian law and released the first report to the UN Secretary-General on March 9.

CDR William Fenrick, of the department of National Defence, is currently serving on the UN Commission of Experts gathering evidence of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

A team of Canadian investigators left early in March for the former Yugoslavia to assist the UN commission in its inquiry into a mass grave site in Vukovar.