

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House met at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, the distinguished International Commission of Inquiry on the Fate and Whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg has concluded, and I quote chairman Irwin Cotler: "the evidence is incontrovertible that he did not die in 1947 as the Soviets claim" and "we have a responsibility to humanity to determine the fate and whereabouts of Wallenberg who is credited with saving more lives during the Second World War than any single government".

The commission reviewed thousands of pages of evidence, documents Wallenberg's years of imprisonment, releases new information including eyewitness reports of his fate, and includes discussion with the late Andrei Sakharov who worked closely with the committee.

The report concludes: first, Wallenberg did not die in 1947; it is compelling that he was alive in the 1950s and 1960s and credible that he was alive in the 1970s and 1980s; second, the burden of proof is on the Soviets to rebut this evidence which they have not done; and, third, without contrary evidence, the committee must assume he may still be alive and should be released.

In welcoming President Gorbachev today, I ask the Prime Minister, in the interest of Canada's only honorary citizen, Wallenberg, to appeal to President Gorbachev for Wallenberg's release if he is still alive and, at least, to fully disclose the fate and whereabouts of this lost hero of the holocaust.

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SOVIET JEWRY

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and congratulate one of the true leaders of the world, President Mikhail

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Gorbachev. As a result of his introduction of *glasnost* and *perestroika* into the Soviet Union, breathtaking changes have occurred in the U.S.S.R. and, indeed, in all of eastern Europe.

As chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Group for Soviet Jewry, I particularly want to thank Mr. Gorbachev who is visiting our country today for permitting thousands of Jews to leave the Soviet Union. In 1986, only 914 Jews were given exit visas. This year it is expected that 150,000 Jews will be allowed to leave the country.

I would, however, ask Mr. Gorbachev to do his utmost to condemn and eradicate the ugly anti-Semitic actions which are occurring in the U.S.S.R. While *glasnost* has meant a more open society where freedom of speech is more prevalent, it is most regrettable that it has given rise to increased anti-Semitic actions. We urge him to curb these insidious actions.

In closing, I salute Mr. Gorbachev for writing and orchestrating a new chapter of hope and good will for the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and many east bloc countries. The struggle has just begun and there will be many problems, but are on the right path.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications was given a petition with over 150,000 names yesterday asking the government to ban children's television programs that suggest violence as a normal way to solve conflicts. Almost all such programming comes from the United States. In that country, the average number of violent acts in cartoon shows was 41 per hour. The minister's answer was to refer the problem to the CRTC.

[English]

The Minister of Communications is all talk and no action. Here is what we propose to deal with this serious matter.

The Broadcast Act is at the report stage in the House. We are not going to deal with it until the fall. Therefore, let us amend it and give the CRTC the power and direction to Canadianize children's programs, that is, to make them less violent than the American programs.