

*Oral Questions*

investment project of roughly \$700 million for expanding its assembly plant in Sainte-Thérèse?

• (1420)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** The Leader of the Opposition has every reason to be concerned over that question, and the Minister and I will take this up with the management of that corporation which, hardly a few months ago if I am not mistaken, announced major investments in the riding of the leader of the New Democratic Party. So, to be fair and equitable, the situation in Quebec will have to be reviewed as well.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## AID TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Right Hon. Minister on his decision to go on to Ethiopia, after attending the funeral of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in India, in order to see for himself the extent of this human tragedy, and I am pleased to see the Hon. Minister has confirmed that for many years, Canada has, both on a per capita basis and in terms of absolute figures, contributed the most towards food aid in Ethiopia.

Considering the famine situation in many African countries, does the Government intend to set up a permanent mobile unit in Africa that would include de Havilland surplus planes—the Buffalo type—available at this time and as yet unsold, to provide a quicker and more efficient system for delivering food to the hungry in these unfortunate African countries?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the former minister for his question, and I think his comments have made it clear that aid provided by individual citizens and government to persons in need is in the Canadian tradition. The Government has just appointed the Hon. David MacDonald as co-ordinator, and his duties will be to co-ordinate all activities of the Government, non-governmental organizations and private citizens, so that Canadians will be able to respond to this very serious human crisis in the most effective way possible. Perhaps the suggestion made by the Hon. Member will be included among Mr. MacDonald's recommendations. I trust that Mr. MacDonald will be in a position to give us in Parliament, and all Canadians, some indication of what kind of program would guarantee that Canadians wishing to help the people of Africa in their time of need will be able to do so effectively.

[English]

## ETHIOPIA—DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD DONATIONS

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the famine is a result not only of years of drought but also of a lingering civil war. Does the Minister have the assurance from the authorities in Ethiopia that they will make sure that food will be distributed to all parts of the country and that the food and relief will not be used to achieve some political leverage?

In addition, does he intend to join the international commission that is proposed by former Chancellor Willy Brandt to attempt to negotiate safe conduct with the successionist provinces and the central government in Ethiopia, so that the food will go to all parts of that country?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the reason why I went to Ethiopia was precisely to seek to satisfy myself personally that there was a reasonable prospect that Canadian aid would be delivered to people in need. I was pleased to be joined in that mission by representatives of the other Parties represented in this House. Certainly, for my part and, I believe, for theirs, we are confident that the Government and authorities of Ethiopia are doing everything that is possible in very difficult circumstances to ensure that aid that comes from the rest of the world to help starving people in Ethiopia will get to those people.

• (1425)

There is conflict internally in Ethiopia. Undoubtedly there will be some diversion. My view is that that is minor and on the margins and it should not deter the people of Canada from giving the aid that is necessary. I am looking for reasons to encourage Canadians to give aid that will help the starving. I am not looking for reasons to stop that aid. I think that is the view of all Members in the House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** As regards the undertaking by former Chancellor Willy Brandt, we will look at that and come to a judgment as to whether that is the most constructive way to try to reduce tensions internal to Ethiopia.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

## MEASURES TAKEN BY THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I have a question for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. During the election campaign, he said that the priority of the Conservative government would be to create new jobs. Since then, the Government has switched its priorities by deciding to focus on the deficit and not on creating new jobs.