

S.O. 29

Mario Lavoie, member of a Canadian delegation to the International Youth Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica from April 6 to April 9, 1985. This young man quoted a resolution adopted by young people representing some 50 countries. In their resolution, they said, and I quote:

Violent attacks against individuals can never be justified in any way. Few priorities are more important than that of imposing severe sanctions on groups or governments that encourage such practices by training, equipping, sheltering and supporting the people concerned.

In concluding, this young Canadian said:

The recommendation is clear. It is now up to the governments of the West. If the situation is not remedied as soon as possible, it may become uncontrollable.

Mr. Speaker, we know this letter failed to get the desired results, because the Governments of our western countries have failed to take joint action to impose sanctions on those who propagate terrorism. And although it has made some attempts in this direction, the Canadian Government has failed to do everything in its power to do so.

[English]

I am sure there is considerable public support in the United States for the action of its Government. I am sure that many Canadians probably support this action also. The gut feeling that anybody has is, finally, we did something about it. Ronald Reagan gave it to them. What we feel in our guts is not the way we are supposed to govern countries. It is not the kind of feeling which is supposed to govern the actions of nations in this world. It is our heads which count. I am dearly afraid that the wiser counsels, the wiser heads in the American Government and in the Government of Canada have not prevailed in recent days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I want to begin my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by complimenting those who have entered the debate today. I would say that we do not all share the convictions of our colleagues opposite, but they have spoken with the courage of their conviction, and that is what this House and this debate is all about.

On the Government side we have tried to lay out in our comments, first with the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen), the extent to which the Government of Canada went to ensure the safety of Canadians in Libya. I think that the case was stated very clearly by the Deputy Prime Minister. He also made reference to our general over-all Government response to these very serious events in Libya. The Minister of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) dealt with the Middle East and the very, very tragic situation of terrorism which reigns there. The Hon. Member for Guelph (Mr. Winegard) very capably put forward a response of the Government to terrorism and our deep conviction that terrorism is a problem which is stalking the entire free world and that we have to do something about it. My colleague from London West wrapped up, so to speak, and dealt with issues, particularly from his perspective as the chairman of a very important joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons. I think we have had generally a high tone of debate. We have not had heckling,

and I think I speak for all Members of the House when I say that that is because we realize that this is a very serious situation.

We have heard eloquent statements on the crisis in the Mediterranean and on terrorism in general. Some very vivid remarks were made about Ireland by my colleague from Brantford and about terrorism in general, then about the root political causes which bring us to this crisis. We all realize that these problems have to be resolved by responsible members of the international community acting together.

This Government and our Party have been very forthright in our comments on terrorism. I want to reiterate the Prime Minister's statement of January 10 when he said:

We must look to concerted international action to achieve our objective. We must redouble our efforts, along with our friends and allies in the community of nations to establish the necessary security measures to protect effectively our citizens. We must strive for meaningful international co-operation to this end. We must make better use of the economic summit group and the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as other forms to achieve these goals.

• (2350)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made special reference to the word "concerted". In the long run, no action against international terrorism will be possible, effective or successful except through international co-operation.

As the United Nations has recognized, terrorism is a world-wide problem that must be tackled through the co-operative efforts of all nations.

We believe there are three areas which deserve intensified Canadian efforts. Within the context of the economic summit, we have already achieved certain success and co-operation on air piracy. We feel that we should look to expanding this co-operation and building on the arrangement which is already in place. Within the International Civil Aviation Organization we should seek, through the Canadian representative, further co-operation on air security measures. International confidence in what is really a remarkable world-wide air travel system that has been developed since World War II is fully justified. We must work at sustaining that effort. The adoption of vigorous methods through the ICAO is a vital element in achieving that goal.

We believe we must take practical steps to build upon the body of international law so as to fill in any gaps which may now exist which allow terrorists to attack aircraft. For example, I pose the question: Should we consider the possibility of a convention on international co-operation on airport security so that we could all share the experiences and methods that various countries use to catch the terrorist before that act of terrorism which we all deplore takes place? If we were to do so, perhaps we could eliminate the tragedies of Vienna and Rome so that they are never repeated and we never witness those shattering pictures of innocent people suffering from the attacks of terrorism.