

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 28, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

[English]

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

KASHMIR

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, recent days have seen a significant build-up in the number of troops and military equipment installed along the India-Pakistan border. There have been two wars in this region since 1947. Neither war has solved the political conflicts there, and fear is growing that the current situation may deteriorate into a new arms conflict.

We call upon the Government of Canada through External Affairs to communicate in forceful terms to New Delhi and Islamabad its view that assertions of political interest by national and state authorities be made only by peaceful and non-violent means.

Government initiatives to maintain order in and near Jammu and Kashmir must also be undertaken in a manner that ensures respect for human rights, international law and the goals of the UN Charter.

Mr. Speaker, all the world has an interest in a continued peace in this region.

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CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to relate a good-time story in this House. Fourteen years ago the Persechini run-walkathon started in Newmarket with about a dozen participants to raise funds for crippled children.

With Joe Persechini as the driving force, and Whipper Watson as the chairman, they have over the years raised more than \$500,000.

Yesterday's event, dedicated to the Whipper, required more than 200 volunteers to organize, involved more than 2,200 participants completing the 10 kilometre run, and raised an additional \$80,000 for crippled children.

Today, everyone involved, families with children in strollers, teens and seniors, may be a little tired and a little sore but they all deserve a special thanks for their dedication and effort.

Congratulations to Joe, Dave, Pam and everyone involved for a job well done on behalf of crippled children.

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ARMENIA

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, today is the day when all people of good will should join with Armenians around the world in marking the tragic circumstances which have beset Armenian history, from the time of the genocide, to Azeri persecution, to the earthquake, right down to the events of the recent days where Armenians have been victimized by Soviet troops. On this anniversary of the establishment of the Independent Republic of Armenia, I call on President Gorbachev to find a way to respect and enhance the Armenian peoples of the Soviet Union, including those of Nagorno-Karabakh, who are separated from their community and should be able to rejoin it if they wish.

As difficult as it might be, *glasnost* and *perestroika*, whenever possible, should include the righting of old wrongs and historical injustices. The people of Armenia are justly aggrieved by the fate history has handed out to them so far. All necessary measures should be taken to lift the current blockage of Nagorno-Karabakh, Soviet troops now inside Nagorno-Karabakh should be stationed on its borders, all imprisoned leaders of the community should be freed, and the legislative and executive bodies of the region should be reinstated.