

## PARLIAMENT HILL

### REMOVAL OF PEACE CAMP

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Earlier in Question Period the Member for Ottawa Centre referred to the fact that at 7.30 this morning the Government of Canada removed the Peace Camp from Parliament Hill and arrested two of its participants. Would he tell the House, and Canadians, the reasons for this removal at this time, two years after the Peace Camp was first installed, and whether this indicates any weakening of the Government's commitment to peace in the world at this time?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[Translation]

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am flabbergasted that the hon. member should be wondering how we could put an end to a situation which had existed for the past two years and which his own government had tolerated for 18 months. I indicated earlier that a few weeks ago I had invited these representatives to go, in view of the fact that Parliament Hill is not a camping ground. They asked me to evict them, assuring me that they were anxious to leave, but that they could leave only if expelled. That is what we did this morning, and I repeat that we have as much respect as anybody in the House for the peace movement. We are as much pro-peace as anybody here, but I think that these people's presence had lasted long enough.

[English]

### GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO PEACE

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question was on a much broader issue than that dealt with by the Minister of Public Works. That is why I asked it of the Prime Minister. Many nations have taken a message from this story, which has gone throughout the world, that there is a lessening of the commitment to the cause of peace in the world. The Minister said that the Peace Camp made its point. If it did, why is the Government not taking a strong position against star wars development in the United States?

I ask the Prime Minister to assure the House, and Canadians, that the Government is committed to peace and that the action this morning is out of line with that commitment? I think the Prime Minister should recognize that and be concerned about it.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the decision this morning was an administrative one which merely concerned making sure that the lawns of Parliament Hill were made available to everybody and not to a group of people, of whatever background, who chose from time to time to live there for given political purposes.

### Petitions

I feel that all Members of the House have demonstrated great tolerance, understanding, and sympathy, by watching this in a friendly manner for two years. It was felt that the time had come for some action. Having said that I want to give my hon. friend the assurance that one is an administrative matter. The other much more important, infinitely more important, is on the political level which deals with all Members of this House and our commitment to securing a durable peace.

● (1500)

I give my hon. friend this assurance, that there is nothing more important to this Government, and I know to the Hon. Member, than the success of the Geneva talks which will make sure that we live in a safer world, that we minimize the risk of nuclear accidents. We are fully committed to that. We believe that is a most honourable goal, and we will pursue it with vigour at all times.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** One question. The Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### NICARAGUA—CANADIAN TREASURY

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since Canada supports and the Prime Minister has frequently referred to the Contadora peace process, and since the efforts of the Contras to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua are major obstacles to that peace process, when does the Canadian Government plan to inform the United States Government, as many others in this hemisphere have done, that we too are opposed to any and all financing of the Contras by the U.S. Government?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada makes its views known in a regular and vigorous way.

**Mr. Benjamin:** What about the people of Canada?

**Mr. Mulroney:** I may tell my hon. friend that, pursuant to our policy of trying to be helpful in that area, the Minister of External Relations will be making a very important visit to Central America in the very near future, and we hope that will be helpful to the Contadora process as well.

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## CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley