

Government Orders

have a place they can call home? Still today there are universities and schools in the occupied territories which have been closed for two years.

• (1950)

That goes against all humanitarian things that we have stood for in the past. Yet, it is permitted to continue. We are expected to jump in line immediately because the Americans wanted to protect oil.

Once again I say: Where were they when Lebanon was overrun? Where were they when the Palestinians were calling out just to have a piece of land that they could call home?

In conclusion, for all those who believe that there is a just solution for the Middle East and in the humanitarian treatment, the place to look to is the United Nations to enforce those resolutions. It is the people in this country who can call upon the government and say that it has been 15 years that the civil war in Lebanon has been permitted to go on.

Since 1948 the Palestinians have not had a place to rest their weary heads. I call upon Canadians to ask simple questions of the Minister of External Affairs or of the government and say: Can we not use our role in the Security Council to say that time has come that these resolutions be respected? That is all we want.

To the government of this country, for the tradition and the respect that we have built up through the many years, we want it to continue, needless to say. We want to be the peacemaker and not the powder-monkey. That should be very clear. To all Canadians maybe it seems frustrating because we feel completely powerless, but we are not.

Our church organizations could be writing to our Prime Minister and to the Minister of External Affairs. If they knew that there were thousands and thousands of Canadians who are aware of the situation, we would see more action.

I was very happy to participate in this debate. It is very hard to stay calm after years of tragedy upon tragedy upon a people who do not deserve to be victims. It is amazing when one looks at the history of that part of the world to see that when the Arabs had their civilization,

there was so little discrimination. It seems ironic that today they would be the victims of such discrimination.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments.

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague just said: "How can I stay calm?"

My comment is: Why should you stay calm when you see so much hypocrisy in North America, especially in Washington and I dare say in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker? How can you remain calm when these young people I see here could be the ones who may be asked to go if things over there turn as I expect most likely and I wish would never take place? How can you remain calm? Why should you remain calm?

My comment to my colleague is when you talk about the Middle East, Mr. Speaker, you have talked about the Middle East in the past. Would you explain to me to help me for my introductory remarks later on maybe. I may decide to give up, because every time you talk about the Middle East either in the Liberal Party of Canada, in the House of Commons of Canada or in any political party, everybody gets dizzy. Mr. Speaker, you can talk about anything in the world, but do not touch the Middle East.

My colleague explained to me his understanding of this nervousness when we start talking about the Middle East. He is a distinguished member of Parliament who sat in the National Assembly in Quebec. He was not defeated. He did not run in 1976. He came back to the Liberal Party of Canada, my party, at a very difficult time, when we were very low in the polls in 1984. He resigned his seat in Quebec City and got elected. He should not apologize for being passionate.

Could he help me out? What is his understanding of the reason why so many people are so nervous in political circles, especially when we want to find in all honesty a solution and justice for all. All means all parties. Would he enlighten me, please?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, I am flattered because the hon. member for Saint-Denis is very knowledgeable an international affairs, especially the Middle East. I should be asking him for advice. I am looking forward to hearing his speech later on, and I