

*Oral Questions*

done to support their citizens who have been taken hostage.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the Prime Minister has assured the House and the family that that is exactly what we are doing and will do.

We followed up at the time under very chaotic circumstances in Lebanon in any way that we could with the means that were available. We did not have an embassy in Lebanon for quite some considerable time as other countries have not.

I want to assure the hon. member as well that missing persons are very important to us. What is important is that when people go missing, whether they are hostages or not, they deserve the full support of their government.

It is the fact that they are missing and that they have disappeared that is of primary concern to us. We have followed up through groups in Lebanon and through the Lebanese government now that it has reformed. Those things have not lead us to any additional conclusions.

I am quite prepared to backtrack on all of those meetings that we have had and to talk to people again. If there is new information we will continue to follow new leads. I cannot do more than that.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, now the United Nations and the special representative of the United Nations, Mr. Picco, will go to Lebanon to intervene in the case of Mrs. Haddad.

I want to ask the minister if she and her officials in the Canadian government will give Mr. Picco, the representative of the United Nations for hostage taking matters, their full support and the support of the Canadian government on this matter?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, Mr. Picco has a list of a number of individuals who are listed as missing in Lebanon.

Not only does he have our full support, but we also provided him with some considerable information. I raised the matter with him directly myself. The answer to the hon. member's question is of course, yes.

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**LABELLING**

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In his announcement yesterday on the government's fight against alcohol, the minister made no mention of actions to prevent foetal alcohol syndrome, one of the leading causes of child retardation and behavioural problems in Canada.

Since both the Government of United States and the Government of Yukon already require that warning labels be prominently displayed on alcoholic beverages warning of the severe consequences of drinking during pregnancy, will the government take this positive step and require such warning labels throughout Canada?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I know that foetal alcohol syndrome is an issue particularly in British Columbia. It was raised at times when I was in the province.

What I have to say is that any alcohol consumption represents a threat, particularly for pregnant women and it has to be known as such. That is why we are working with the provinces, and particularly in his own province with community organizations to develop awareness about the consumption of alcohol.

I can say that it is working because it is well supported. We are not yet ready, however, to determine any commitment in terms of labelling because we believe that it still has to be studied. That is what we are doing in the department.

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the same minister.

The minister knows that the only opposition to warning labels comes from the brewers and distillers. Since the government has already said that Canadian borders will be open to beer, both interprovincially and internationally, will the government recognize the health consequences as well as the commercial consequences of its actions, and require national, uniform warning labels on all alcoholic beverages?