

*Adjournment Debate*EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—ISRAEL—GOVERNMENT VIEW OF
ACTION TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITIES IN OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, it is now some time since I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) about Canada's attitude to the Israeli plans for colonization or settlement of those lands taken by military action from sovereign Arab states. In the interval the importance and relevance of the question, and the intensity of the feeling resulting from reaction have grown significantly and perhaps frighteningly.

I do not know whether the Canadian government used its good offices with Tel Aviv as I suggested, to seek to dissuade them from such a clearly provocative course. In any case there can be no doubt that the events of recent months reveal that this action has added another explosive element to an already over-heated crisis area.

I have never in all my years of interest in Middle East affairs suggested that there is anything unilateral or exclusive when it comes to assessing blame or responsibility. Neither side is without sin. Unfortunately in this country there is too often a tendency to be very one-sided when it comes to assessing the credits and debits. Too often there is an almost conditioned reflex to assume that the Arab side must be the chief culprit or the only transgressor.

This partiality, this selectivity, is not suitable in a country which is seeking to be open-handed and objective in its dealings with the Middle East. I note the solicitude of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) at Habitat lest Canada be seen to support any declaration which might offend the Israeli delegation. I believe that such councils of moderation are and would be more effective if given out in a balanced and impartial way. I believe that friends of the Arab world should point out that extremism of language is often less helpful than a strongly stated argument based on reason, logic, and historic facts.

● (2200)

I can recall occasions when my counsels of moderation have not made me overly popular with my Arab friends. On the other hand it is unhelpful, or worse, to condone or be silent about Israeli actions which threaten peace or violate the basic human rights of others.

A Reuter article of May 22, 1972, a year after the date of my question, is captioned "Arabs break curfew, Israelis break legs." The article went on to say that three young Arabs had their legs broken by Israeli security forces in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. Mayor Karin Kholof said the forces entered several houses and beat up about 30 people, including women. Doors that were not opened by the residents of the houses were broken down. This is the harvest of the seeds sown by Israel when it determined to set up communities of Israeli people in those lands it seized by conquest from other states. The plan is to spread Israeli citizens into the far reaches of the occupied territory. How could such an act be regarded with anything but hostility by the residents of those areas and the rulers of the sovereign Arab states which claim jurisdiction over the land which had been taken from them?

A few weeks ago I was in Quneitra in the Golan area of Syria and saw the rubble of that city, totally levelled by the Israeli forces. A very short distance away I saw some-

[Mr. McKenzie.]

thing else: on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights the intensive cultivation of the slopes by Israeli authorities. I thought at the time how often the world was told that Israel was interested in the Golan Heights only because it wanted secure borders.

It is not surprising that Ambassador Scranton speaking for the United States in a recent security council debate deplored the colonization move by the Israeli government and warned of the dangers such a move might bring.

A most brilliant scholar and statesman, Abba Eban, who was foreign minister when I visited Israel, has warned that extending Israel's grip on occupied territories would reduce the government's options in future negotiations with the Arabs.

In a very thoughtful editorial designated "Time to Leave", the *Ottawa Journal* declared on May 29:

Darkness descends again on the Middle East, and not only in Lebanon. In the Jordan River West Bank, occupied by Israel since the 1967 war, events are eroding what few hopes existed for an Arab-Israeli peace...

Hence a grim impasse. After nine years of passivity under Israeli rule the West Bank Palestinians have come to life; expressing their resentment by ballots, demonstrations and strikes. The Israelis can certainly maintain their rule now by armed force. But for how long? They must weigh carefully the effect on American public opinion of gunfire to suppress West Bank aspirations to independence. Israel will lose friends as this sad situation continues to erupt.

It will also inflame the Arab world, making hope of peace impossible. Then it will be only a matter of time until the Middle East explodes again. Soon, somehow, Israel should get out of the West Bank.

I noted the remarks of the parliamentary secretary in response to today's question by my colleague from Okanagan-Kootenay. I do not pretend to any exceptional or inside knowledge of the Lebanese situation. I believe that the hon. lady and I, and the vast majority of our colleagues, I am sure, share a profound sense of tragedy and depression about events in the beautiful country of Lebanon and the once bright and prosperous city of Beirut. A young constituent told me a few days ago that he could not understand Lebanon. He went on to say that he could not understand Ireland, either. I believe this to be a realistic reaction to a profoundly painful and distressing situation which seems to lead to a sad but a few hopeful reactions or portents.

I am not sure that the recent Syrian move is totally to be deplored. I do not like the prospect of any other nation exercising sovereignty over Lebanon, one of my favourite countries and one of the world's splendid democracies in its heyday. Certainly I do not appreciate any diminution of the rights or prospects of the Palestinians who are the chief victims of the whole Arab-Israeli confrontation and of the bad faith of the great powers of earlier generations. But events of the past few weeks make it far from impossible to accept the view that Syria has exercised a moderating influence in the area and that its failure to use its power and position may have prolonged a situation which could have led to conditions and situations more painful and tragic than those of today and the sad months preceding today.

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is always difficult to speak immediately after the hon.