

Adjournment Debate

this Parliament, from this Government, an action that is appropriate to us.

It has been suggested with sincerity and with some reason that we should endeavour to seek new elections, to use the arm of the United Nations to establish such new elections. I submit that such a gesture would be premature until the security of candidates and voters can be assured. A jungle is no place for an election. That is precisely what Haiti wants this weekend with wild beasts in the form of men roaming the streets, devouring those who went about the business of trying to give birth to a democracy.

● (1825)

Once more I bring before this House of Commons the plea that the dead shall not have died in vain but that their blood may call forth the entire civilized world to join together in putting pressure on what passes for a Government in that sorry land and to demand that steps be taken to secure what was aborted.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Of course, Mr. Speaker, the two questions which have been raised this evening during this additional question period are very topical, and I have to say that we are deeply concerned over current events in both Iran and Haiti. The situation is dramatic since the Haitian election was cancelled, and department officials are now keeping a close watch on this drama.

As I am speaking, the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Landry) is waiting for a detailed report from our ambassador in Haiti who earlier today was in touch with the President of the National Council of the Government of Haiti. The ambassador is expected to report at the earliest opportunity.

Our ambassador had been asked by the Minister for External Relations to convey to President Namphy, in no uncertain terms, our deep deception as a result of the cancellation of the election, as well as our indignation with respect to the circumstances which brought about this decision. The ambassador was to remind the president how imperative it is to

honour his commitments, as defined during his intervention late Sunday afternoon. The president did promise he would act quickly and take the measures required to hold another election by February 1988 at the latest.

The Canadian Government wants to voice its concern with respect to the individuals who set up the interim electoral council or lent their support. In light of the first reports sent by our observer mission, Canada believes that the interim electoral council had lived up to the challenge of finalizing the organizing of election based on the most democratic criteria, in the particularly difficult historical and social circumstances in Haiti. It is therefore imperative that these people be able to return rapidly to normal living conditions if they so wish and at the forthcoming election, and our ambassador has expressed this message in the clearest terms.

Mr. Speaker, should the legally constituted Haitian government fail to take constructive steps to restore the situation, there might be a possibility, as the distinguished Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse) indicated yesterday, that Canada, along with other nations, would refer the matter to the international courts involved. Keeping in mind Haiti's tormented history, already bearing the scars of colonial times and foreign interventions, Canada still expresses first and foremost the sincere hope that a solution may indeed be found within the Haitian community itself.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk about suspending our assistance, and the suspension of American assistance has been cited as an example. I would remind these people, with full respect for our fellow Canadians of Haitian origin, that the American assistance is military assistance. Ours is strategic assistance designed to help the Haitian people restore the kind of unblemished democracy they deserve.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.29 p.m.