

Oral Questions

to an international solution to the situation in the Gulf of Sidra off the coast of Libya? What is the Canadian position?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the tone of the question from the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. That is a matter of some tension and of particular interest to Canadians because of the presence in Libya of some 1,300 of our citizens. All facts are not available, but from the facts that are available it appears to us that there was an attack upon the United States, to which the United States responded. We are seeking to gather information from a wide variety of sources. As those facts become available I will certainly make them available to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and to all the Members of the House.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION OF CANADIANS WORKING IN LIBYA

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we know as well as the Minister that 1,300 Canadians are now working in Libya, and we are a little concerned about their future. Could the Minister inform the House whether he feels our fellow Canadians are at risk and whether an emergency plan exists to repatriate them?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have dispatched one of our consular officers who will be in Libya tomorrow morning, local time. We are keeping directly in touch with the Danish Embassy, which in the circumstances has been acting on our behalf to provide information on the situation in Libya. We have no reason to be concerned about the situation for Canadians who are down there.

[English]

TRAVEL BY CANADIANS TO LIBYA

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Has the Government advised Canadians not to travel at this time to Libya, and should not the Minister be preparing a more precise plan to evacuate Canadians already working there?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are not preparing a precise plan for evacuation because, in our judgement, the situation of the last day and a half has not made any more difficult the situation of Canadians who are there. The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the House will know that sometime earlier this year in January a statement was made by the Government indicating to Canadians who were working in Libya that they should use their own judgment and come to their own determination as to whether or not there was a danger to their security. At the moment we have no reason to change that advice. We are seeking information, as I have said to the House earlier, and if that information causes us to change that

advice to those Canadians, we will communicate that to them and to the House.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

GENERAL MOTORS PLANT IN QUEBEC

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. I join with the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister in congratulating General Motors of Canada on its recent decision to invest \$2 billion in its Oshawa plant. I want to ask the Prime Minister if he would share with the House what representations he has made to General Motors of Canada to protect the jobs, the community, and the economy of Sainte-Thérèse in Quebec?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I have made the representations that the Government is committed to fair regional economic development, and that requires an investment in the automotive sector not only in Ontario, which we are very grateful for and which we seek more of, but also in the Province of Quebec and other regions of the country. There is a base to be maintained and to be built upon, and this Government is deeply committed to enhancing that sector in the Province of Quebec.

• (1420)

FUTURE OF WORKERS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I thought the Prime Minister might have been more specific because those assurances certainly do not alleviate the anguish that the people in Sainte-Thérèse are facing.

Will the Prime Minister give an undertaking to the House that he will use his office and the programs of Regional Industrial Expansion to ensure that General Motors will in no way reduce its workforce in Sainte-Thérèse, Quebec, thereby affecting the entire community?

[Translation]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, the first major investment in the automobile industry in Quebec in almost twenty years was made last fall with the Hyundai deal, thanks to the intervention of the Government of Canada.

And are the Liberal Members . . . ah yes, the Members of the Liberal Party are against investment in the automobile industry in Quebec, and Quebecers are going to remember that!