

Oral Questions

manner of conveying a very important message about the fact that there ought not to be any sanctuary for those who export terrorism against civilized people.

FORTHCOMING OECD MEETING

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In two days' time the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be meeting with representatives of 24 other countries in Paris at the meeting of the OECD. Will the Government use this unique opportunity to put forth concrete proposals for co-ordinated action against international terrorism? Will it show leadership in this way to help prevent further escalation of the current crisis situation?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The very distinguished Secretary of State for External Affairs, who has just completed a successful tour and working visit throughout the Middle East, will be bringing his suggestions and his good influence to bear on this problem at upcoming meetings later today and tomorrow.

FORTHCOMING TOKYO SUMMIT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister share with the House the nature of these suggestions? Will he also undertake to use the opportunity provided in some three weeks' time by the Tokyo Summit of major nations to bring about and show leadership in respect of co-ordinated action against the rise of terrorism and the risk of escalation of world violence?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our statement on January 10 I began a series of meetings—and I believe it was on January 12 or thereabouts—with Prime Minister Nakasone to develop and to set forward Canada's views and a program which might very well be considered by the Summit in Tokyo in the first week of May, in the event of that group being seized or being desirous of being seized of a program which the allies could implement. I have had occasion to discuss this with Prime Minister Nakasone, President Mitterand, and President Reagan.

● (1420)

We will bring forward our ideas and those of our colleagues, friends, and Members of this House. It is a burning and vital issue to be resolved on the side of sanity and civilized conduct.

*[Translation]*INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WILL PARTICIPATE IN
SPECIAL DEBATE ON SAFETY OF 1,300 CANADIANS
WORKING IN LIBYA

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

Does he intend to participate directly in the discussions concerning the situation in Libya generally, but more specifically to take part in tonight's emergency debate on the safety of 1300 Canadians in that country?

The Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I take part in all Government decisions concerning this matter. I met last night with the Deputy Prime Minister. I met this morning my colleagues of the Cabinet. About 11 o'clock this morning, I met the Press Gallery. I am in the House today to answer questions. If possible, I will have the opportunity to participate in other debates, but I do not know whether I will be in the House this evening.

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, given the gravity of the situation, I find that answer a little disappointing. Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, not only answered questions throughout Question Period today but will be participating in a thorough debate and discussion in the British House of Commons.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LIBYAN AUTHORITIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, has the Government of Canada been in contact with Libyan authorities in the last 12 to 15 hours to discuss, directly with them, the security of the Canadians, and to ensure that those Canadians who want to leave Libya will have no trouble doing so?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, to the extent that there would have been communications between our envoys and the representatives of the Government of Libya, which I suppose took place, yes, there would have been communication. Our primary concern from the beginning has been the welfare of Canadians in Libya. The Government of Canada has taken, through diplomatic and other initiatives, every possible measure to ensure that it is being helpful. We have received good reports from our representatives on site, and we continue to be encouraged by the situation in which Canadians find themselves.

POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF CANADIAN CITIZENS FROM LIBYA

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister himself was not directly involved in discussions with the Libyan authorities. I would understand that. He did not answer my question directly, but perhaps he, or the Deputy Prime Minister, who has immediate responsibility for the situation, could tell the House if the Government, very specifically, has been in discussion with the Libyan Government about the possible exodus from Libya of Canadians who may want to leave. Has that question been raised with the Libyans? Have we received assurances that any Canadians who want to leave will be able to do so? Also, has the Canadian Government made transportation facilities available for Canadians to leave, if they so wish?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, there is no reason to conclude other than that Canadians in Libya are safe. They are in no way existing under any threat, and it would not be useful to convey any message other than to repeat what the Prime Minister said in the House last Friday and in his press