

Oral Questions

The Turkish Embassy itself has indicated that it expects the Canadian authorities to deal with the matter, which we are doing with determination.

The hostages were Ambassador Kirga, his wife, and daughter. The details of the incident are now under investigation by the police, and the suspects have been arrested. They are at this moment being interrogated. The RCMP, of course, and the Ottawa Police have been in close co-operation from the moment they learned of the incident and this co-operation is continuing in the on-going investigation.

PROTECTION OF EMBASSY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is the third incident at the Turkish Embassy. Is the Deputy Prime Minister yet in a position to tell us whether there was a gap in security procedure, and in the procedure for protection of that Embassy? Has the Turkish Government been in touch with our Government relating to this incident on the degree of protection afforded the Embassy?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the first part of the question, the Turkish Embassy has indicated that it expects Canadian authorities to deal with the matter.

With respect to security generally in that and other embassies in Ottawa, the question of the security arrangements of our embassies here was under consideration today, and it will be under intensive review at a very early time. That review will benefit from today's events in assisting the Government in coming to an assessment of its over-all security arrangements for all embassies in the area.

● (1420)

REVIEW OF SECURITY PROCEDURES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I hope the Deputy Prime Minister will let the House have the benefit of what that review reveals as to whether there was a gap in the protection or the security in front of that Embassy. I second the Deputy Prime Minister in congratulating the police officers who quickly brought the situation under control this morning.

Would the Deputy Prime Minister tell us how that police effort was co-ordinated between the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police, and the Ottawa Police Force? Was there co-ordination? Which police force or entity was in charge and in control?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I don't think it would be in the interest of security itself to engage in an exchange with respect to details of the security provided to our embassies, but I would be very happy to undertake to discuss that matter with the right hon. gentleman and the Leader of the New Democratic Party, at their and my convenience.

With respect to a gap, obviously there was a gap; it was penetrated. But, by the most excellent standards which we have been assured exist in Ottawa, the security arrangements were those that could best achieve security for the embassy. In light of the events of today, a review of those arrangements is obviously imperative. That review will be undertaken, assessments made and conclusions arrived at, at the earliest possible time.

ROLE OF CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, in his commendation of police action, the Deputy Prime Minister made no reference to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. I should like to ask him whether the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had a role and responsibility in relation to bringing this incident to a relatively successful conclusion.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Yes, it certainly did. That was one aspect of the question of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition which I did not address. As the former Solicitor General well knows, there was a role played by that Service. As he knows, there is machinery within Government to assure central co-ordination of the responses necessary to meet emergency situations of this kind. That machinery went into action as soon as the emergency was known, and with very efficient and good results apart, of course, from the loss of life which occurred, and the injuries that I neglected to mention which were sustained by the Ambassador. Mr. Kirga who is alive and well and currently being treated for those injuries.

SURVEILLANCE OF ANTI-TURKISH TERRORISTS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the main role, in relation to this type of incident, of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service would be a counter-intelligence gathering role, a role which should be fulfilled before an event of this nature. I want to ask whether surveillance of anti-Turkish terrorism continues to be a priority of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. I think that gap has been left in the answers of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it certainly has been left and, as I am sure the former Solicitor General will appreciate, it would not benefit the security process itself if I were to respond in detail and directly to that question. It does nothing to enhance the security of the Turkish, or any other embassy, if I discuss, on the floor of the House of Commons, what arrangements are in force with respect to surveillance, or any other activity concerning those whose interests might be inimical to the very security we discuss.

ARMENIAN THREATS—PROVISION OF SECURITY

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question also concerns the events of this morning. I want to say