

S.O. 29

For Canada and Canadians the past 12 months have seen tragedy upon tragedy. In March of 1985 the Turkish Embassy was taken over and a Canadian died. Less than two weeks later the Toronto subway system was held to ransom. In June there were the double tragedies of the Air India flight 182 and the Canadian Pacific Air explosion at Narita Airport. In October Canadians were again confronted with terrorists aboard the *Achille Lauro*, and the following month witnessed the death of two Canadians at Valletta Airport in Malta.

We have yesterday witnessed yet another consequence of the global conflict to which the Minister referred. There are causes and effects not only in the Middle East but in all parts of the world. We recognize the tragedy of terrorism. First, there is an immediate tragedy visited upon innocent victims, their family and friends. Their lives have been sacrificed for causes which were not their own. In company with others we must seek to break the logic of terrorism which so often exploits the very freedoms we take for granted. We must improve our security preparedness and strengthen our laws against this crime. I note that certain steps have already been taken. The Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Beatty), for instance, announced on March 10 a comprehensive upgrading of our counter-terrorism program. He created a special emergency response team and substantially strengthened the protection of foreign missions and personnel. In addition, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), both within the context of the International Civil Aviation Organization and at international airports in Canada has come to grips with wide-ranging improvements in aviation security. I believe Canadians will support this initiative.

Second, a terrorist act is carried out in the name of a cause often born in tragic circumstances. The tragedy of terrorism has political roots. We must seek, as indeed we have sought, to contribute to the search for peace and justice in the Middle East and elsewhere. This cannot be obtained by means of terror. Canada is second to none in its search for civilized solutions to world problems.

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Third, there is the tragic potential that terrorism holds for disrupting orderly discourse among nations. The terrorist cause becomes identified with the terrorist consequence, and this complicates the conduct of international relations. Terrorism itself becomes the issue rather than the conditions which created it.

We must resist the terrorist goal, which is, of course, to force political change through violence. We support negotiations and we support the peaceful settlement of disputes. We will not be deviated from this principle by those who would seek their political ends by bringing suffering to innocent people.

In this regard, the words of the Prime Minister on April 9 are particularly apt. He referred to the concern about:

The irresponsible and criminal misconduct of some agents of countries which appear to be giving succour to terrorism and terrorist activity which is

reprehensible and completely unacceptable to Canada and every other civilized country.

Leaving aside the latest American action in Libya, we should remind ourselves that terrorism has suffered some defeats, although at great costs. Those responsible for the deaths of Valletta were brought to ground. Terrorists responsible for the *Achille Lauro* incident were also apprehended. For the first time in its history, on December 9 the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted a landmark resolution that condemned all acts of terrorism as criminal. This latest action by the international community was presaged by a ground swell of international public opinion against terrorism expressed in world institutions as diverse as the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Commonwealth. We should also recall that in the aftermath of the abhorrent attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports in December, Canada undertook a comprehensive series of measures to signal clearly that the Government will not condone the terrorist activity of Libya.

Speaking before the United Nations this fall, the Prime Minister said that no nation alone can combat terrorism; it demands concerted international action. We must exchange information. There must be nation-to-nation understanding and we must have international conventions.

Those who murder and maim innocent people, those who bring anarchy to civilized society can have no sanctuary, no comfort, and no indulgence. Canada has a commitment in joining with other countries around the world in the search for a determined and effective response against terrorism.

Canada has already taken a number of measures and is in the forefront of the struggle to make the world safe from terrorism. For example, at the ICAO, Canada, in company with others, is leading in efforts to make international air travel safer. Within the context of the economic summit, we and our partners are examining further co-operative means to come to grips with terrorism. Heads of Government of the economic summit countries—the leaders of the industrialized democracies—will meet in Tokyo in May. Preparations for this meeting are already well in hand. There is an opportunity for further international co-operation in this context and our goal should be to promote it and thus defeat this terrible scourge of terrorism once and for all.

I have no doubt that the war against international terrorism will be prolonged and that further tragedy lies ahead. But I also have no doubt that with resolution and determination we can move toward eliminating that evil.

The battle against terrorism can be won on the basis of the following principles and objectives: First, it is in the interest of all countries to oppose international terrorism. No nation is safe.

Second, no nation alone can combat terrorism. It demands concerted international action.

Third, Canada will seek international action against international terrorism in all available places.