

Prime Minister to take a more active role in the current crisis by participating in "initiatives towards a long-term solution based on a negotiated political settlement involving mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO."

The independent Member of Parliament, Bill Yurko (Edmonton South) criticized both the government and the opposition July 21 for the "deadly silence in this House in regard to the Lebanon crisis." Mr. Yurko was appealing for a task force to be sent to examine the suffering in Lebanon so that "appropriate humanitarian action can be taken." NDP Leader Ed Broadbent also asked that the government provide more aid to Lebanon on July 26. External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan informed the House of Commons that Canada was contributing a further \$1.4 million in aid, which he believed made Canada's contribution the highest per capita in the world.

It was announced July 22 that, under instructions, the Canadian ambassador to Israel had delivered a formal note of protest to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs because of actions by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), contrary to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic relations. In the days before the letter of protest, the IDF had repeatedly searched the vehicle of the Canadian ambassador, despite his objections, when he was crossing between East and West Beirut. In addition, on two recent occasions the building which housed the Official Residence of the ambassador had been hit by Israeli shells.

Ian Watson requested July 27 that the Canadian government support the recommendations of the 1979 Stanfield report which urged the broadening of contacts with the PLO. Mr. Trudeau responded that, "I think it would be a very important step forward if the PLO were to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist, because we think that would be an important step forward in recognition of a homeland for the Palestinian people, which is a position that this government supports." A PC motion in the House on July 28 to commend the devotion of Canada's ambassador to Lebanon, Théodore Arcand, was passed on July 28 after supplementary statements and endorsements from MPs from the two other parties. Marcel Prud'homme (Lib., Saint-Denis), the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, gave his view that it was time for Canada to address the question of the Palestinians, and their need for a homeland. He also wanted Canada to do more than send a letter to the government of Israel protesting the searching of the Canadian ambassador's car in Beirut. Mr. Prud'homme believed that perhaps Canada should recall Ambassador Arcand for consultation. It was also revealed that a day earlier, a Canadian-PLO meeting had taken place at the Canadian embassy in Beirut. External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan told the House of Commons that the conversation with the PLO official had been the only direct contact between a Western government and the PLO since PLO leader Arafat had signed an agreement accepting "all UN resolutions relevant to the Palestinian question" the week-end before. The meeting was intended to confirm that the PLO position toward recognizing Israel had changed, as the statement had implied. It was reported by a Canadian diplomat in Beirut that he had failed to discover the implied changes.

Mr. MacGuigan also announced that day that Canada had received an apology from Israel for the bombing of the ambassador's residence in Beirut, and for the searching of

his car. In an interview from Beirut, Mr. Arcand said that these actions had been "unbelievable." As well as heavy bombing in West Beirut, food, power and water supplies had been cut off in that area. Mr. Arcand, the only Western ambassador who had stayed on in West Beirut, told reporters that he intended to stay until the Canadian government asked him to leave (*Globe and Mail*, July 29).

Further action on Canada's part was urged again in the House on July 29. Henri Tousignant (Lib., Témiscamingue) said that he was shocked that some MPs should "waste their time defending the comforts and conveniences of this House and fighting against wage restraint, while thousands of innocent people . . . are being struck down as a result of military attacks." Pauline Jewett (NDP, New Westminster-Coquitlam) repeated Mr. Yurko's previous request that Canada consider establishing a three-member all-party group to travel to Beirut and determine the kind of responses that Canada could make.

It was reported July 31 that a statement supporting a homeland for the Palestinians made by Ron Irwin (Lib., Sault Ste. Marie), the Parliamentary Secretary to the External Affairs Minister, "appeared to be firmer than previous policy announcements by the government and came a day after a special meeting of the (External Affairs) minister and about twenty-five Liberal MPs on the Lebanese situation" (*The Citizen*, July 31). In the House of Commons July 30, Mr. Irwin had responded to a question by Robert Wenman (PC, Fraser Valley West), saying that he would not use the word "self-determination," but that he thought "Canadians would want us to show the same compassion to Palestinians that we have traditionally shown to Israelis. Therefore, we do support a homeland for Palestinians. I think Canadians would want this government to do that, and that is what this government is doing." He also said that Canada would participate in a peacekeeping force if asked, if the parties involved agreed, and if it was constructive.

Newspaper reports July 31 also said that, according to the Canadian ambassador, Palestinian refugees had been harbored in the basement of the Canadian embassy in Beirut. Mr. Arcand had told reporters that about fifty women and children who had fled from southern Lebanon about eight weeks earlier had been given shelter in the embassy (*The Citizen*, July 31).

Central America

The eleventh report dealing with Canada's relations with the Caribbean and Central America was tabled in the House of Commons July 29 by Marcel Prud'homme (Lib., Saint-Denis), the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. The report contained recommendations for Canadian relations with countries on a case by case basis. "The conduct of states towards their own citizens should be an important factor in Canada's relations with them . . . We believe that the power and influence of the Canadian state can and should be used, whenever possible, to move other states to protect their citizens and provide them with the opportunities and freedoms necessary for their development," the report stated. It also said that military assistance to countries from outside, either to governments or insurgents, should be reduced and eventually eliminated (*Globe and Mail*,