

would be very happy to share it with the Prime Minister but I can assure the hon. member and the Haddad family that it has been reviewed. Much of it is public, nearly all of it is public in terms of the actions that have been taken on behalf of the Haddad family and on behalf of Mrs. Haddad.

This government will continue as it has in the past to show sympathy for the family and to follow any leads that we have that will lead to a satisfactory conclusion by way of information if it is forthcoming or to find out exactly what happened.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the Haddad family is not looking for sympathy. They are looking for action.

Yesterday in this House the Secretary of State for External Affairs continued to insist against all evidence to the contrary that Mrs. Haddad had not been a hostage.

Last night on national television we saw two ministers of the Lebanese government state categorically that she was a hostage.

The fact is that this 66-year old Montreal grandmother has been held for more than 2,000 days, possibly in Lebanon. We do not know whether she is still alive.

Given the seriousness of the situation and as he has done in other cases, will the Prime Minister personally intervene and contact the President of Lebanon? Will he let him know that the Canadian government is taking this issue to heart and that the Canadian government recognizes Mrs. Haddad is a Canadian being held hostage and deserves our support and our help?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend is quite right. Mrs. Haddad does deserve our full support and our help. That is what the Government of Canada has been doing through the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

We have conveyed to the Government of Lebanon our view throughout that Canada's efforts ought to be assisted fully by all authorities to the extent that they exist in that very troubled land.

We have received the kind of assurances on which the minister of external affairs has based her previous statements.

Oral Questions

Ms. Copps: The minister is wrong.

Mr. Mulroney: My hon. friend says the minister is wrong. I suppose she may be. Anything is possible.

The minister has given full and complete assurance to the hon. member, to members of the House and to the Haddad family regarding everything she knows and the Government of Canada knows, and everything that we have done and would be ready to do to assist Mrs. Haddad and her family.

Maybe my hon. friend knows something we do not know because she just said we are wrong. She may be right. I would be happy to meet with my hon. friend to get this information, but I can tell her and the Haddad family that the government takes this extremely seriously. We have done what we think is just about everything that a government can do. If there is more that we can do, we will.

I want to assure the House that the minister for external affairs has personally kept me informed, has informed the cabinet on a regular basis, and has done quite a tremendous job in defending the interests of Mrs. Haddad and the Haddad family.

This is not to say that we cannot improve and if we can, the Government of Canada certainly will.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, also to the Prime Minister on the same question.

Yesterday the minister for external affairs said the government had done everything possible in this particular case.

• (1450)

But last night we learned that the Canadian government officials never contacted the family of the man abducted with Mrs. Haddad. The government officials never spoke to other hostages who had been taken hostage and who had been with Mrs. Haddad. Canadian government officials never spoke to the last people in Lebanon who had seen Mrs. Haddad. So not everything was done.

I would like to have a commitment from the Prime Minister that he and his government officials will do everything possible, will do what other countries have