

*Oral Questions*

In view of the fact that the U.S. has failed to comply with its earlier assurances, what is the minister going to do to retaliate?

• (1450)

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I find that question rather strange when the Secretary of Agriculture has agreed to rectify the process, but the problem is that—

**An hon. member:** It has gotten worse.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It has not gotten worse. The Leader of the Opposition does not understand that.

What is taking place is that the regulatory process is being put in place. There has to be formal notice publicized in what is their equivalent of *The Canada Gazette*. That is being done. When that process is completed, we will be able to remove those impediments and certainly that will facilitate trade both ways. I am sure that is what the hon. member wants.

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### THE MIDDLE EAST

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs and it concerns recent developments in the Middle East: the formation of a new hard-line government in Israel; Tuesday's tear gas attack by Israeli troops on a Swedish maternity clinic; and yesterday's statement by the new government in Israel that it would not negotiate with the PLO, thus making any real peace prospects almost impossible.

I wonder if the Secretary of State for External Affairs shares the view that what we have in the situation in the Middle East is a rapidly deteriorating situation, in a region of the world where nuclear and chemical warfare confrontations are not out of the question.

In that light, what action does the Government of Canada intend to take, either through its seat on the Security Council at the United Nations, or in other ways, to send the appropriate messages to Israel—and, for that matter, the United States—that there has to be move-

ment instead of intransigence on the part of the Israeli government?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question, and I am sure all members of the House share his concern not simply about developments in the Middle East, but the evidence that there is no apparent break in the cycle of violence and all the implications that holds for the difficulty of moderates maintaining their position in that region.

There is a new government now formed in Israel. I will be in touch with their foreign minister directly. There had been a plan for a meeting between myself and his predecessor that was to have occurred this month. I hope that there can be a direct meeting between the new minister and myself as soon as possible.

With regard to the United States, I signed a letter yesterday to the U.S. Secretary of State urging him to persevere in discussions, including the maintenance of consultations between the Government of the United States and the PLO.

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, one of the more immediate concerns that certainly the Palestinian community has is that ways be found to protect the Palestinians from the increasing level of violence being visited upon them by Israeli troops.

Has the minister considered, as I mentioned in my first question, using our position on the Security Council to influence the development of a UN peacekeeping force that would finally be acceptable to Israel to operate in the occupied territories to protect Palestinians? At the same time, would the Canadian government not consider enhancing its relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization as a way of indicating to the Israeli government that we feel these are the people who will finally have to be dealt with, whether the Israelis like it or not?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are two or three questions there. The hon. member was careful in suggesting that any action by the United Nations would have to be something that was acceptable to Israel. We would certainly be prepared, as we have in the past, to try to apply our influence to achieve that kind of result.