

their positions and fighting continued. In February 1987 Syrian troops entered West Beirut in response to an appeal from Muslim leaders and put an end to Amal's siege of the Palestinian camps. Syria thus ended, at least temporarily, the war of the camps between the Lebanese Shi-ite, the Palestinians and the Druze (Progressive Socialist Party).

On 1 June 1987 the Lebanese Prime Minister, Rachid Karamé was killed when the helicopter which was taking him to the North of Lebanon was attacked. Two separate groups claimed responsibility for the incident.

In Canada, the report of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, released in June 1985, contained some observations on Canadian-Lebanese relations. It noted that the previous Government had opposed the 1982 Israeli invasion of the country and had called for a withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. The Committee suggested that "a continued Syrian presence might, in fact, assist temporarily in maintaining internal security in Lebanon. In some respects Syria may be the only power left in Lebanon capable of restoring some order and unity to the country." Finally, the Committee expressed its support for "any efforts the Canadian Government is able to make to promote Lebanon's territorial integrity."¹

Current Canadian Position

On 14 June 1985 the Government decided to withdraw all Canadian staff from the Embassy in Beirut, citing the risks to which they were exposed. Mr. Clark emphasized that "this measure in no way affects Canada's continuing strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon" or for international efforts to bring to a conclusion the recurrent

¹ The Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Report on Canada's Relations with the Countries of the Middle East and North Africa, 1985, pp. 71-73.