

*Oral Questions*

A few months ago, the world watched as the coalition countries went into war and today we are watching a human tragedy, particularly of the Kurdistan population. For the Kurdistan population certainly the new world order must look very much like the old world order.

We found almost \$1 billion in Canada to fight that war, \$600 million of which was allocated in the February budget. What kind of real humanitarian aid are we now prepared to give? Clearly, we cannot walk away from this situation. What kind of humanitarian aid, above the \$3 million already committed, is Canada prepared to give to the suffering of these people?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there may well have been some Canadians who, faced with the various problems in Iraq, were prepared to have Canada walk away from its responsibilities.

This government has never walked away from its responsibilities. We do not intend to do that now. The hon. member will know that in August of last year, Canada announced something in the neighbourhood of \$77 million in humanitarian assistance to deal with—

**An hon. member:** You make a partisan play out of everything.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** If you cannot stand the heat go home to Victoria.

• (1430)

As I indicated, the Government of Canada made available some \$77 million in August, particularly to Jordan and to Egypt, but also to other countries. We not only made that commitment, we delivered on the money.

On Friday my colleague and I announced a contribution of \$3.3 million to various international humanitarian organizations. I am pleased to announce today that an additional \$4 million will be provided to international humanitarian organizations to help ease the suffering of the Kurds. I should say that about \$2 million of that additional continuing contribution by Canada will be to the Canadian Red Cross to expand its operations in Turkey. Others will be to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for operations in Turkey and

in Iran, and UNICEF will receive some \$300,000 for its operations in Turkey.

I am also pleased to announce that the first consignment for the International Red Cross will be carried to the region by a Canadian Boeing 707 which will leave Trenton tomorrow.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the minister.

There was a good answer to a very simple question and eventually we got to it. I am glad to see that the government is giving more aid in this area. That was simply what the question was about.

[Translation]

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the Kurds in Canada are very worried about their families in Iraq. I would like to ask the minister what the government will do to help Kurdish families, the Kurds here in Canada, obtain information about their families in Iraq?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there have already been conversations between representatives of my department and spokespersons and representatives of the Kurdish community in Canada. We intend to continue these consultations.

Of course, it is difficult for us or for anyone to obtain accurate information on the Kurds in Iraq. Much of that area in Iraq is in upheaval; there is a great movement of people; more than a million are now travelling to the borders of Iran and Turkey.

I think that the best guarantee we can give Canadians and others is to find ways to stop Saddam Hussein's activities, to stop the attacks on the Kurds. In the United Nations and through our humanitarian acts, we are seeking ways to end this tragedy.

[English]

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, certainly we all agree that it is necessary that the Kurds be protected and be given the protection of the United Nations. I am sure that the minister would agree that part of that in the long term is to ensure that we have arms control in the world. The United Nations should take a strong stand on arms control and let Canada be a participant in that.

In particular on the whole issue of arms control and disarmament, I would like to then ask the minister who