

Policy

FOREIGN

Falklands

Unanimous consent was given to a motion in the House of Commons June 15:

That this House congratulates Prime Minister Thatcher, the Government and the people of the United Kingdom on their resolution of the conflict in the Falkland Islands that maintains the principle that armed aggression must be resisted, that respect for the United Nations Charter and the role of law in international affairs be observed and force not used to settle territorial disputes between states, regrets the loss of life and injuries on both sides and urges a peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues between the U.K. and Argentina.

Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Amid reports from Canadian officials in Lebanon that Beirut was being "unmercifully bombarded by land, by air and by sea" (*Globe and Mail*, June 11), Canada strengthened its condemnation of Israel's attack on the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in Lebanon during June and July. Canada, along with other nations, made its increasing concern about Israel's offensive known.

At the Versailles and NATO summits in early June, joint communiqués from Western leaders, including Prime Minister Trudeau, called for Israel to abide by a unanimous UN Security Council resolution for an immediate ceasefire on the Syrian and PLO forces. Mr. Trudeau wrote to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin June 5, urging him to exercise restraint, and not to invade Lebanon. Asked by reporters in Spain between the summits about his letter to Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister said that, "I pointed out several indices in Israeli actions which gave Israel's friends cause for concern, to say nothing of Israel's enemies."

On the same day (June 8) in the House of Commons, MPs unanimously agreed to a motion to support the UN Security Council resolution for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

From Bonn June 9, as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon continued, Mr. Trudeau sent Mr. Begin another letter, which was reported to be a "stronger" condemnation than the previous one (*Globe and Mail*, June 11). The letter said:

With Israeli air-raids in Lebanon and rocket attacks on Northern Israel already in progress, my letter to you on June 5 counselled restraint to avoid the dangers that further military action would bring. I am dismayed by the subsequent escalation of the conflict represented by the massive movement of Israeli forces into Lebanon. Great human suffering is being caused, and

the rapid northward expansion of Israeli operations is posing an increasing risk of a wider war... We cannot accept the proposition that the present military activities are justified or that they will provide the long-term security which you seek for the Israeli people.

On June 11, a ceasefire was agreed to by Israel and Syria, but heavy fighting continued between Israeli forces and Palestinian guerrillas on the outskirts of Beirut (*Globe and Mail*, June 12). Israel began an assault on West Beirut, causing international alarm and increased concern for residents of Lebanon. Canada had decided to keep its embassy staff in Beirut, and concern for them, 1,600 other Canadians in Lebanon, and the Lebanese people was expressed in the House of Commons. On June 15, Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced that one thousand Lebanese visitors in Canada would be allowed to stay for a year with working permits. It was also announced that week that the federal government had pledged one million dollars for immediate relief assistance to Lebanese civilians, to be distributed by the Red Cross (*The Gazette*, June 18).

The government was questioned in the House of Commons on June 10 and 23 about the possibility of Canada imposing trade sanctions against Israel. Ian Watson (Lib., Châteauguay) expressed concern that Israel had ignored direct requests that it stop its aggression. According to the Red Cross, Mr. Watson said June 23, the invasion of Lebanon had resulted in 10,000 deaths, most of them innocent civilians. Mr. Trudeau reiterated the position that the House had taken in calling for a ceasefire, but said Canada was not considering imposing sanctions at that time.

The Prime Minister was questioned June 28 and July 7 about the possibility of Canada's participating in a peace-keeping force in Lebanon. He responded on July 7 by saying that Canada had not been approached to participate, and if it was approached, it would consider participation if the operation was "in line with the desire of the various parties to the conflict" and under the aegis of the United Nations. It was reported July 8 that "there have been proposals for a multilateral peacekeeping force that would aid in the disengagement of the Israeli and Palestinian armies in Lebanon but there has been no indication that such an organization would be organized under UN auspices" (*Globe and Mail*, July 7).

Meanwhile, Canadian citizens had been making active representations about their concern for the Israeli invasion. Many groups condemned the activity in Lebanon, while the Canada-Israel Committee on behalf of the Jewish Community of Canada advertized their views in support of Israel's actions in Canadian newspapers. On July 19, a group of Canadians, including the Hon. Robert Stanfield and three former Canadian ambassadors, urged the