

# STATEMENT DISCOURS

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85/72

Remarks by the Right  
Honourable Joe Clark,  
Secretary of State for  
External Affairs, at a  
reception by the  
Air India Flight 182  
Memorial Fund Committee

Ontario Science Center,  
Toronto

December 3, 1985.

In remarks delivered at a reception by the Air India Flight 182 Memorial Fund Committee in Toronto on December 3, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark stated that "freedom to travel safely is the very essence of what international order is all about" and there is a "real danger" that global terrorism would "dominate" the international order. He emphasized that "international efforts to deal with this scourge have not been sufficient for the danger at hand and pledged that Canada will do everything possible to deal with this "most insidious and pressing threat".

His full remarks are attached.

On Saturday, in a small church in the small rural town of Beiseker, I shared in the grief of a father. His wife and young son were the latest Canadians to die from the scourge of international terrorism. For Edward Leonard and the family and friends of Valinda, global terrorism has intruded with shocking and sudden finality in their daily lives.

Other Canadians have also been the victims of equally horrible events. Global terrorism has become a daily event. A partially paralyzed old man, enjoying the Mediterranean sun, ended up a corpse on a Syrian beach. Workers at Narita Airport were blown up as they unload luggage from a Canadian Pacific flight.

Valinda and Andrew Leonard's deaths are particularly poignant, however. A young mother and baby son on their way to join husband and father touches all of us in a particularly sensitive way. We cannot forget that so many of the Canadians who died last spring on Air India flight 182 were also on their way to meet loved ones.

The freedom to travel safely is the very essence of what international order is all about. The world has been free of global conflict for forty years. And there is every reason to be proud of the peacemakers who have laboured to achieve that fine result.

We are, however, in real danger of allowing a new form of global conflict to dominate the international order and govern our lives. Death as a result of international terrorism is as real and as shocking as any of the deaths in the last global conflict.

Our international efforts to deal with this scourge have not been sufficient for the danger at hand. Canadians have been at the forefront for many years in promoting and developing new initiatives to deal with this most insidious and pressing threat. Clearly more must be done. I will ensure that everything that can be done by Canada will be done.

Our reason for coming together tonight is tragic and sad. Many of you are seeking to put your lives back together without loved ones and close friends.

For some of you time has eased the tragedy that all of us felt when the first news of the ill-fated Air India flight 182 reached us on June 23. The full story of what happened on that fateful morning off the coast of Ireland is yet to be determined. That is the responsibility of others with whom Canadians are working most closely and cooperatively.

For most, the deep wounds will never heal. I am particularly reminded of one father in Montreal who is still living the events of June 23. He cannot accept that his daughter died on flight 182. He lives in daily expectation that she will return.

These tragedies will not fade nor should they. To forget is to insult the memory of those who died. To remember and to act, is to give proper meaning to those who died.

I commend you for your efforts to establish the memorial fund. To dedicate a wing of the Credit Valley Hospital is a most appropriate way to memorialize the three hundred and twenty-nine men, women and children who died last June 23. I wish your efforts every success.

You will recall that last summer the Governments of Canada, India and Ireland agreed that a memorial should be erected on the coast of Ireland to remember the Air India tragedy. The Irish authorities have provided the land for the memorial at Dunmanus Bay, some sixty-five miles from Cork. Canada and India are now discussing the matter and I expect that the memorial will be erected in time for inauguration on June 23 next year.

A few moments ago I mentioned that I intend to ensure that Canada will be in the forefront of countries seeking new initiatives to combat global terrorism.

I do not believe that only in the international arena is there a need for new initiatives and action.

In our own country and in our own lives there is need for action as well. A few Canadians have been willing participants in acts of international terror as well. In many cases, old struggles and new enmities have been brought to our shores. They have not been forgotten in the climate of tolerance and civility that are the hallmarks of the Canadian system. Instead, the very instruments of tolerance and civility are misused by persons who seek and support violent changes for struggles far from Canada.

In dealing with global terrorism we must look inwards as much as we look outwards. Not to do so is to lose faith with those who have died. The three hundred and twenty-nine victims of Air India will not forgive us if we do not.