

H & K Communications

72 Elvaston Avenue
Nepean, Ontario
K2G 3X9

Phone: (613) 829-1800
Fax: (613) 829-2449
E-mail: hturkow@rogers.com

SOURCE: PCO

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2010

REFERENCE/ RÉFÉRENCE: 1102DOC1

LOCATION/LIEU: VANCOUVER, BC

TIME/ HEURE: 9:40

LENGTH/DURÉE: 3:29 MINUTES

PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS AT ROUNDTABLE IN
VANCOUVER

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Phone (613) 829-1800 Fax (613) 829-6181 E-mail hturkow@home.com

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RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): ...he would accept losing, so it made a good conversation. Ok, we're all ready? First of all, I just want to thank everybody from the business community who was here today. We're going to discuss some of the economic challenges that still face the country, some of the options looking forward to position Canada well as the recovery begins to take hold. And we're going to try and do that against the backdrop of the Olympics. I know that's what's on everybody's mind, but we do appreciate that men and women from the business community are willing to share your thoughts on non-Olympic subjects for a few minutes.

Avant de commencer, je veux mentionner quelque chose de différent. J'ai parlé ce matin avec le Premier ministre de la Russie, Monsieur Poutine, sur évidemment les Olympiques, parce que les Russes sont les prochains hôtes des Olympiques (inaudible), mais aussi nous avons parlé de la situation avec le régime de Téhéran, et j'ai exprimé notre...nos préoccupations graves sur les activités d'enrichissement d'uranium du régime à Téhéran et la nécessité de le monde d'agir. J'ai noté la déclaration forte de la Russie et nous voulons encourager l'action internationale coordonnée à cet égard. En même temps, nous sommes aussi encore préoccupés des abus des droits de la personne de ce régime, et notre solidarité...solidarité comme Canadiens, notre solidarité est avec la population, le grand peuple iranien.

So just if I could mention that as well, I did speak to Prime Minister Putin earlier today. The call was obviously around the beginning of the Olympics and the fact that Russia will be the next Olympic hosts, so we're obviously looking forward to seeing our Russian friends here

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and reciprocating the visit in four years' time to Sochi. That all said, another subject did come up, and that was the issue of Iran. I expressed...first of all, I noted that Iran, that the Russian government, I know that the Russian government put out a very strong statement on Iran and also we just expressed our concerns, the government of Canada, our grave concern about the grave danger this regime poses in its continuing uranium enrichment activities. Those must cease, and the international community must take coordinated action going forward. So we had a discussion on that. It was a good discussion, and I intend to continue it through the G8 with President Medvedev. At the same time, let me also just say that while we are concerned about the regime in Teheran, our solidarity for Canadians is with the great Iranian people who continue to suffer terrible rights abuses, and our solidarity is with them going forward. So thank you very much, everybody.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks guys.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks very much.

486 words

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