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**SOURCE: PCO**

**DATE: JANUARY 24, 2014**

**REFERENCE/ RÉFÉRENCE: 2401DOC1**

**LOCATION/ LIEU: JORDAN**

**TIME/ HEURE: 10H45**

**LENGTH/ DURÉE: 10:30 MINUTES**

**P.M. SCRUM AT ZA TRI REFUGEE CAMP IN JORDAN – PART 1**

RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER (Canadian Prime Minister): Bon matin. Good morning.

First of all, let me just thank our hosts here. Obviously as was said earlier today this is just the tip of the iceberg of the scale of the refugee problem and the tremendous human suffering that we see. I do want to thank all who are helping here. Obviously Canadians, all the Jordanian authorities and all of the people representing the international community. A great deal of work is being done to alleviate the plight here and we particularly appreciate it.

This is obviously a situation that besides putting a tremendous stress upon literally millions of people also puts great stress upon the Jordanian authorities and we are very pleased and proud to assist them.

C'est la raison pour laquelle le Canada est ici. Notre aide humanitaire nous sommes un des plus grands donateurs de l'aide humanitaire dans cette région et en réponse à cette crise, aujourd'hui j'annonce que le Canada va augmenter son aide humanitaire de plusieurs façons mais plus particulière, par le programme Right to Play. C'est un programme pour encourager l'éducation des

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enfants ici. C'est essentiel que malgré la crise et malgré la tragédie humanitaire qu'on ne perd pas toute une génération. C'est essentiel d'encourager le développement de la jeunesse.

So just to repeat that, as you know, we're helping here in many, many ways. Transport, the police station you were in, we're trying to be as helpful as we can. We are one of the largest international donors in response to the Syrian crisis. Today in particular, I do want to announce that we are extending our humanitarian aid with a particular emphasis on the program Right to Play. This is a program to help educate children. It is very important that despite the great humanitarian tragedy all around us, that we don't lose a whole generation and that we continue to develop the young people for what hopefully will someday be a brighter future.

So I'll take a couple questions.

MODERATOR: (Off microphone).

QUESTION: Good morning, Prime Minister. I'm just wondering, earlier in the week you called the human toll of the Syrian conflict incomprehensible. You've had now a chance to hear from the managers of the camp, seen a sense of the scale of the place. You know, lives displaced by war and conflict. Just wondering just, you know, your impressions of what you've seen.

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RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER: Well, I mean, what could you say as ... as we were told by the United Nations in our first briefing, as large as this camp is, this is only one small piece of the refugee crisis and the refugee crisis here is only small piece of a broader humanitarian displacement in Syria itself.

You know, we ... we talk in terms of hundreds of thousands of refugees and millions of displaced persons. We, you know, it's sometimes easy to forget that these are all individual lives.

You know, we are touched by this. This is the reason we try and provide food and shelter and sanitation and education and security to do what we can. Obviously unfortunately it appears that this is going to, if anything, only get worse or continue. So our commitment must be for the long term.

En français, oui, en français. Comme notre représentant de l'ONU a dit, ce camp des réfugiés est seulement une petite partie d'un plus grand, d'un problème beaucoup plus grand des réfugiés et le problème des réfugiés dans les pays comme la Jordanie est seulement une petite partie de déplacement des personnes. Et quand on parle des centaines de milliers de personnes ou des millions de réfugiés, des millions de personnes déplacées, c'est facile d'oublier de temps en temps que chaque est une vie humaine et chaque représente une souffrance immense. C'est la raison pour laquelle que nous aidons dans toutes les façons

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possibles pour le logement, pour la nourriture, de l'eau, de sanitation, de sécurité et malheureusement on doit faire face à la réalité que c'est une crise qui probablement va durer longtemps et notre engagement est aussi pour le long terme.

QUESTION: Thank you, Prime Minister. I'd also appreciate an answer in both languages if you don't mind.

The other night in your remarks in Tel Aviv you saw very little cheer for on any side in the Syrian conflict. But we've been speaking to folks here in this camp and we've been asking them, well, are you ever going to get to go home, which is what they really want. And they say well, Insha' Allah, God willing, but they know that's not enough. What they want is to see the Assad Regime taken down.

Is there really nothing more that the international community can do, in your view, to stem the flow of victims instead of just waiting until they are victims and then helping them?

RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER: Well, Terry, as you know our government has called for Assad to leave office. In fairness our judgement is that that would not be sufficient in and of itself to end the problem and end the crisis. I don't think as I said in my remarks in Tel Aviv, we should be simplistic about the nature of the conflict here, about the threats posed by essentially extreme and brutal elements on both sides of the conflict.

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Obviously, you know, as a government, we're doing what we can to encourage two things, to obviously encourage the development of moderate and broadly based opposition, to the regime, and also doing what we can to encourage reconciliation and peace process between the two sides.

The brutal reality of the world is that we do not... we do not control the actions of others. And sometimes the actions of others impose realities upon people that we have to deal with. And so given our limited ability to affect the course of the conflict, the best we can do and really all Canada is doing in terms of our aid, we're not supporting the conflict itself on either side. We are supporting help for people. And that's what we will continue to do.

And let me just say that if I can, after... after a trip of some duration in... under, in three different governments, three different authorities, and seeing both some great things and some tragic things, and some great history. The one thing I always walked away from all of these things with is how fortunate we are to be Canadians living in the country we do.

Je vais le répéter. Le Canada a demandé, demande depuis le commencement de régime, la démission et la sortie de M. Assad et évidemment de son régime, ce n'est pas ... ce n'est pas un secret mais on ne doit pas être simple envers la situation de la crise. Il y a des forces brutales et extrémistes sur les deux côtés et c'est nécessaire d'encourager les forces d'opposition modérée et aussi la

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réconciliation entre des éléments différents de pays. Et il n'y a pas une solution simple. Il n'y a pas une solution qui peut être imposée par la communauté internationale.

A la fin ce sont des Syriens et des Syriennes et leurs représentants qui doivent déterminer une vraie résolution. Et à notre avis ça doit être une résolution qui inclut toute la population et des éléments différents de la population.

Notre capacité de déterminer le cours de ce conflit est limitée mais notre capacité d'aider les personnes qui sont touchées et qui sont affectées est beaucoup plus grande et ça sera l'emphase de nos efforts.

Pour... je veux aussi... je veux aussi faire un peu de réflexion sur tout le voyage. C'est un long voyage en Israël, à l'Autorité palestinienne ici en Jordanie. Et j'ai vu des choses, des belles choses, des choses tragiques et aussi beaucoup d'histoire. Mais à la fin, j'ai toujours la même pensée après tous mes voyages que nous sommes très chanceux d'être Canadiens et d'avoir un tel beau pays. Merci, tout le monde.

WORDS: 1377

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