Déclaration de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères et du développement international, sur les relations franco-saoudiennes et sur la situation au Yémen et en Syrie, à Riyad le 13 octobre 2015.

2015-10-13

Je voudrais d'abord remercier le ministre. Nous avons rencontré le roi et mon ami le ministre des affaires étrangères.

Je voudrais faire écho à ce qu'a fort bien dit le ministre des affaires étrangères. C'est vrai que sur les grandes questions, notamment les questions régionales, nous sommes en grande convergence avec les analyses de nos amis saoudiens; cela montre que le partenariat stratégique n'est pas un vain mot, c'est une réalité. C'est ce qui nous permet de bâtir à la fois une série d'accords politiques et en même temps de développer nos relations économiques.

Tout à l'heure, je vous ferai communication d'un texte que nous avons établi en commun pour résumer nos accords. Cette session avait un double contenu : d'une part, la commission jointe qui est présidée du côté saoudien par le prince Mohammed ben Salman et du côté français par moi-même. Cette commission qui se réunit tous les six mois a fait un excellent travail dont vous aurez le compte-rendu et, par ailleurs, il y avait le forum d'affaires entre les hommes d'affaires saoudiens et les hommes d'affaires français qui a accueilli plus de mille entrepreneurs, ce qui est considérable. Nous sommes donc plein d'optimisme pour la suite. Cher Adel, si tu es d'accord, nous allons prendre quelques questions.

Q - (sur la guerre au Yémen)

R - As far as Yemen is concerned, I agree with what the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs said : you know the situation which was at the origin of the problems. We supported Saudi Arabia under international law, now we hope that a political solution can be found. Obviously all parties need to agree to talk. We are supporting the efforts made in that direction. At the same time, there are humanitarian needs. The other day I met the chairman of the Red Cross and we discussed the situation which is, as you know, very difficult. We hope that a political outcome will be found and obviously we will support this prospect, which is the only acceptable one.

Q - (sur la situation en Syrie)

R - Syria : I can try and answer this part of the question. We are already carrying out strikes in Iraq because we are part of the coalition. We keep on carrying out strikes against Daesh. In Syria, we recently decided to attack Daesh as well. Why ? Because on the basis of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, we think that we are in a position of self-defence, because, as you may know, some Daesh elements are physically threatening France and other countries in Europe. We thus decided to act and we have already carried out strikes in Syria against Daesh. Now the problem is obviously wider, and we have had the opportunity to discuss it with the Saudi authorities, because there is obviously a military aspect to fighting Daesh. But there is also a political aspect because we consider that we have to find a political solution, and this political solution needs to involve a transition out, and a shift of political power. Obviously, we are working in this direction with different partners, because it is an absolute necessity if we want to bring back stability in Syria and have a Syria where everybody, whatever his religion or origin, can work and live together. And we are working for peace and security in Syria. That obviously means fighting very harshly with Daesh. It means rallying all players of good will and it requires preparation and implementation of the political transition as well.

Q - (sur la présence de la Russie en Syrie)

R - Your question is about Russia, if I understand correctly. When I was at the UN a few days ago, I defined the three conditions under which the Russian position could be useful : the first one is that it has to hit Daesh and not vulnerable positions ; the second is that they have to use their influence with Mr al-Assad to stop barrel bombing of civilians, because it is a real crime and we all want this barbaric action to stop ; and the third is that they have to prepare what I call a transition out, a new system in which the institutions - and I agree with what Adel said - remain solid because we don't want a new chaos : there is already chaos. We need to reassure institutions. But obviously Mr Bashar al-Assad, apart from the fact that from a moral point of view he is completely mad, but for reasons of effectiveness also is it impossible to imagine the future of Syria in his hands, because that would be the best incentive to push Syrians towards terrorist actions. We therefore cannot contemplate the prospect that someone who is responsible for the bigger part of the problem will be part of the solution. It is not only a moral issue, it is also an efficiency issue.

So there are the three conditions again : 1/ hitting Daesh and terrorist movements and not the opposition, 2/ stopping barrel bombing, 3/ preparing the transition, which is an absolute necessity. And we are working on that with our Saudi friends and other partners because it a real necessity for Syria first, for the whole region and its stability and peace.

Thank you very much.Source http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr, le 26 octobre 2015

Source : https://www.vie-publique.fr/discours/196594-declaration-de-m-laurent-fabius-ministre-des-affaires-etrangeres-et-du