



UN
MEETING
PROTEST

TODAYS TOP HEADLINES...

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at the Tim Hortons Innovation Centre in Oakville, Ont. yesterday.

CANADA BOYCOTTS IRAN'S UN SPEECH

OTTAWA (Torstar)

Canada boycotted a speech by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last night to protest his "absolutely repugnant" comments on the Holocaust and Israel, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

Harper yesterday forcefully defended Ottawa's decision to walk out when the Iranian leader took the podium at the United Nations in New York last night.

"There are times when things are being said in this world that it is important that countries that have a moral compass stand up, make their views known. Our absence there will speak volumes," Harper said

during a stop in Oakville.

"Given President Ahmadinejad's declarations ... disgraceful, insulting declarations denying the Holocaust, there is no way I'm going to permit any official of

the government of Canada to be present and give any legitimacy to remarks by a leader like that," he said.

In a speech last week, Ahmadinejad repeated previous incendiary comments as he lashed out at Israel and the West, questioning whether the Holocaust occurred and calling it a pretext for occupying Arab land.

Harper said Ottawa is also troubled by the crack-down in Iran on "legitimate" protesters, the "fiasco" around the elections and the continued detention of Iranian-Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari.

MORAL
COMPASS