

*Oral Questions*

• (1420)

Will the Prime Minister of Canada request that the President of the Soviet Union publicly reject such a proposal because of the adverse effect it would have if implemented on the fragile environment of the Arctic, and because of the way it would contradict the stated Soviet view that there should not be further nuclear testing and, in fact, nuclear armaments should be reduced in the Arctic. Will this request be made?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, of course we are concerned about the possible implications of increased testing in the fragile Arctic environment, particularly at a time when we are intensifying environmental co-operation between Canada and the U.S.S.R. We obviously will be raising this issue and expressing our deep concern. This will be conveyed directly to the President and in other ways that will come to our disposal.

I can assure the hon. member we share his concern and that this matter will be taken up during the bilateral discussions today and tomorrow.

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[Translation]

**LITHUANIA**

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, my questions are also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister who has to be aware that the Lithuanian community in Canada is deeply concerned over the changing situation over there. Will the Prime Minister raise this issue with his distinguished visitor and, more specifically, is the Prime Minister prepared to ask President Gorbachev to remove all sanctions which aggravate the conflict rather than solve it?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the position of the Government of Canada has been made clear. It is to continue to ensure *de jure* non-recognition of the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states. Of course, we have urged, and will continue to urge, restraint upon the Soviet authorities in their actions against the Baltic states. We call on both Vilnius and Moscow to engage in productive discussions and negotiations in an attempt to resolve this matter.

As for Canada, we are considering ways and means in which we can support Lithuania and other Baltic states in this quest for greater self-determination. Those discussions will obviously be a very central part of the visit between the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the President of the Soviet Union.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—St-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will certainly know that there is a shortage of medical supplies because of the blockade, and I hope that the Government of Canada will find ways to help to alleviate such problems.

I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister a question on another point. He knows that next year the Soviet Government will host an international conference on human rights. As a prelude to this conference, is the Prime Minister ready to recommend to President Gorbachev that he take all necessary steps to relax general travel restrictions on all its citizens and particularly, to ensure that Soviet Jews can leave the Soviet Union without threats.

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations):** Mr. Speaker, I should think that my colleague knows full well to what extent respect for human rights is a matter which the Government of Canada defends with utmost determination in all institutions.

As to the specific problem he has raised, he also knows that our government supports the notion that Jewish people should be free to leave the Soviet Union and that this issue will also be the subject of discussions later today between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his counterpart.

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[English]

**BILL C-43**

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice.

If Bill C-43 passes today, this government will once again have relegated women to second class citizenship. Today a doctor in a Halifax hospital said that that hospital will no longer provide abortion services if this bill passes. Doctors in Winnipeg say they will no longer provide reproductive health services. Other doctors, afraid of criminal prosecution and jail sentences, will require signed statements, witnesses and expensive psy-