

Oral Questions

which enables us to stress again that the government does give priority to immigrant linguistic training.

This is why in excess of \$120 million was earmarked for language training in 1990-91, three times as much as in the 1984-85 budget. Still I hasten to point out to my colleague opposite that budgets and programs have to be re-examined every year. We do that in close co-operation with our provincial colleagues to make sure that our programs are indeed tailored to real needs.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, only a few days ago, the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council said in recommendation No. 7 that the Council recommended making French-language training available to all immigrants in Quebec. This morning, the Quebec Department of Immigration confirmed the information we got from the media, namely that there had been a reduction of 17 per cent. Why doesn't the government listen to its own advisory council and immediately increase funding to make French-language courses for immigrants available to all?

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, I again wish to stress the importance of co-operation in identifying these needs with our provincial counterparts. Speaking on behalf of this government, I am very much aware of the importance of making this kind of training available to immigrants. I want to repeat that \$120 million have been earmarked within our budget. We want to manage our programs effectively, and I can inform the House that the programs approved this year are three times what they were in 1984-85. That is quite an improvement.

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[English]

PERSIAN GULF

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. The ongoing situation in the gulf, which is dangerous and serious, continues to concern Canadians and the people of the world.

There are authoritative reports that the U.S. intends to launch an offensive attack on Iraq completely outside the terms of the United Nations resolution.

Will the minister instruct the Canadian contingent in the gulf that it is strictly to limit its activities to those which are within the terms of the UN resolution and that under no circumstances is it to become involved in precipitated U.S. offensive action against Iraq?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right in assuming that there is a serious international crisis in the gulf. I suggest he is foolhardy in relying on his information through the newspapers as to reports of actions taken by governments.

That being said, I can assure him that before any changes are made to the mission that Canadian forces are involved in at this time in support of the United Nations sanctions, resolution 665, that of deterring aggression, they will have to be consulted and we will have to make that change in Canada. It will not be changed by the commanders in the area.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, among the sources for the suggestion that there is an offensive U.S. policy is none other than the recently fired chief of the air force in the United States of America. This has been supported by all kinds of independent analysts.

I would like to know and this House would like to know what steps the Government of Canada is taking to persuade the United States to give sanctions and the United Nations a chance to get the hostages free and to get Iraq out of Kuwait.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member answered his own question as to his source. A source that has been dismissed is no longer a reliable source, I would suggest to the hon. member.

• (1450)

Let me go a little further and suggest to the hon. member that the actions taken by the ambassador of Canada and United Nations Ambassador Fortier since the outset have been to convince all nations involved to abide by the United Nations resolutions. Canada has co-sponsored on several occasions those resolutions.