

Adjournment Debate

projects involved and the need to collect data on which an accurate analysis could be based.

As the hon. member is aware, the Minister of Transport is pleased to join with the government of Newfoundland in the appointment of a commission which will examine a range of transportation problems in his native province.

The question of federal assistance for primary highways in the Atlantic provinces was specifically discussed, among other things, when the minister met with the maritime premiers and the Newfoundland minister of transportation a few weeks ago, on February 7, and as the minister noted in the House on February 21 there was agreement in principle with the general idea that certain moneys which otherwise would have been spent in the Atlantic region in relation to certain programs—and it was agreed that those moneys were not particularly serving their original purposes of promoting development—would be diverted toward such matters as a highway strengthening program.

As the minister also pointed out, that agreement in principle will be worked out in detail in the next few weeks in terms of concrete actions and programs. In this regard it is hoped that an announcement will be made in the relatively near future.

In closing I would remind the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) that the question he raises tonight respecting highway upgrading is very much associated with the nature of rail services to be offered and also with the kind of marine services which will be available in the future.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—CUBA—SUGGESTED RECONSIDERATION
OF RELATIONSHIP IN VIEW OF SUPPORT OF RHODESIAN
GUERRILLAS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, on February 9 I rose to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) the following question, as reported on page 2873 of *Hansard*:

... In view of the massacre of missionaries in Rhodesia by guerrillas, and in view of the admission by Cuban officials that their Montreal offices are used for training guerrillas and the fact that these guerrillas are destined for Rhodesia and carry on continuing murder and harassment of missionaries, will the Prime Minister reconsider Canada's relationship to Cuba as well as its generous financial and material aid to that country?

I could not help being shocked by the callous and unfeeling effrontery of the Prime Minister's reply. He said:

No, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the question is based on a *non sequitur*. He might just as well ask if we are going to reinforce our delegation to the Vatican and help from that side.

That question did not come out of the blue. It stems from the obvious contradiction inherent in the government's foreign policy.

On February 2, 1976, the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) directed the following question to the then secretary of state for external affairs, as reported on page 10520 of *Hansard*:

As the Cubans landed two unscheduled flights in Canada where they were refuelled, while en route with Cuban troops for the fighting in Angola, will the minister inform the House what steps he has taken to inform Premier Castro of Canadian displeasure over this action and whether any steps have been taken to

[Mr. Roy (Laval).]

prevent the recurrence of this procedure, in order to prevent Canada from being directly embroiled in this conflict?

The then secretary of state for external affairs answered as follows:

... we have made it plain to the Cuban authorities that we would reserve the right to inspect in future such unscheduled flights. We have also made it clear that we would not tolerate—

I emphasize the words "would not tolerate".

—any such use of Canadian facilities for military purposes if, indeed, that was the case.

That same day the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) asked the following question, as reported on page 10518 of *Hansard*:

I wonder if the minister could assure us that Canada has taken steps to refuse further refuelling stops for Cuban aircraft at Gander at least until Cuba repatriates its troops from Angola. After all, Guyana and Barbados refused permission for stops; why not Canada?

The next day, on February 3, 1976, the former leader of the opposition, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield), pointed out to the Prime Minister that in view of the Angola crisis it would be quite normal for the Prime Minister to postpone his pending visit to Cuba. He said, as reported on page 10569 of *Hansard*:

Accepting that Canada and the Prime Minister's government disapprove of foreign adventurism of the sort that Cuba is pursuing in Angola, why did the Prime Minister not take this opportunity to make this point very effectively to Cuba and to the world by simply postponing his visit to Cuba at this time?

He went on to say, as reported at page 10570 of *Hansard*:

Despite what the Secretary of State for External Affairs said as a result of the visit of the Prime Minister, the general perception abroad is that it was great for Fidel Castro. What did it do for Canada?

The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon) then asked the following question:

Can the minister inform us if there have been any flights recently by Warsaw Pact countries which used Goose Bay airport as a staging or refuelling point between Cuba and points in east Europe or Africa?

The then secretary of state for external affairs replied in part:

... I believe that there have been two scheduled flights in the last months to Cuba stopping down at Goose Bay.

The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) then asked the Prime Minister questions about conversations with Fidel Castro. He asked, as reported on page 10572 of *Hansard*:

What did he say with regard to Angola? ... What did he say? Instead of evading the subject just tell the House, even though the language be brutal.

The Prime Minister answered in part:

In so far as Premier Castro's views, he made them known to me. I have the feeling that he has a good knowledge of Africa and a good feeling for the realities there.

That took place one year ago. Since then we have had a startling revelation by an American, David Bufkin, who was recruited by the Cubans in Mexico and trained in Montreal, and then turned a double agent in Rhodesia. That revelation amounts to a barefaced admission on the part of the Cubans that they were using their facilities in Canada to train guerril-