

Oral Questions

were being considered. Therefore, the hon. member is wrong when he implies that we are pursuing advanced negotiations with Turkey. They have not reached an advanced stage at all.

[English]

Mr. Stan Dromisky (Thunder Bay—Atikokan, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It concerns something raised regarding negotiations to sell Canadian CF-5 fighter jets to Turkey, a country which according to Amnesty International is "a serious and systemic violator of human rights".

Can the minister possibly assure this House that these Canadian planes will not be used to jeopardize the rights of innocent people?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for asking me a question similar to the one I just answered. I can confirm that the negotiations regarding the sale of the CF-5 jets are at a very preliminary stage. Canada is studying the possibility of selling them to a number of people who have shown interest.

I can also confirm what I just said to the hon. member, which was that there is no cause for concern with regard to Turkey, since negotiations are at a very preliminary stage and since, at any rate, the government rigorously reviews sales of this kind and obtains specific commitments from purchasing countries. Undoubtedly, we will take every action necessary to ensure that whatever country buys the jets, be it Turkey or another, it would not use them against civilians.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the answer of the Minister of National Defence to previous questions on the Somalia inquiry were totally inadequate. The point remains whether the inquiry is or is not going to be impartial and conducted at arm's length.

Will the minister replace Anne-Marie Doyle with someone whose impartiality is unquestioned?

Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I already answered that question.

An hon. member: Cover-up.

Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the minister's unwillingness to answer this question leaves me and others in this House to believe that something is being hidden. He is doing nothing at all to instil public confidence in the inquiry into the whole Somalia affair.

• (1440)

Will the minister restore the integrity required by the public by demanding that Anne-Marie Doyle be removed immediately?

Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I answered the question.

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[Translation]

DEFENCE INDUSTRY CONVERSION

Mr. Yves Rocheleau (Trois-Rivières, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry.

Between 1990 and 1994, Quebec lost 8,054 jobs in the defence industry, mainly in Montreal. These lost jobs account for more than half the jobs in the 40 largest military equipment companies and indicate the urgent need to set up a real conversion program. However, in the last budget, no money was allocated for this purpose.

Could the Minister of Industry explain why the government decided not to provide any money to set up a real conversion program for the defence industry, considering the promises the Liberal Party made in its red book?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may not have had the opportunity to consult with corporations and business associations in Quebec and throughout Canada.

Had he had the time to do so, he would have found out, as we did, that the corporations and all the business associations are against subsidies to the private sector. What they want from us is strategic information and help in finding foreign markets. This is what our government has been doing, not only through the measures contained in the budget, but also through Team Canada, which has been promoting sales overseas.

Mr. Yves Rocheleau (Trois-Rivières, BQ): Mr. Speaker, does the minister recognize that by cutting the DIPP program by \$41 million, money that could be used to set up a real conversion strategy, the Montreal area will continue to lose thousands of jobs and be penalized compared to its foreign competitors for whom such programs are in place?

[English]

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is far more pessimistic than I am about the strength and capability in international markets of many of the firms in Montreal.

I happen to believe that companies have been traditionally strong in both the defence sector as well as in the dual use sector. For example, there is CAE Electronics which I visited on Friday. It entered into a new contract with the Canadian Space Agency. It is precedent setting and will be useful in helping that company