

Oral Questions

the administration of the Canada Lands Company (Mirabel) Ltd. According to a spokesperson for the Auditor General's office, the Canada Lands Corporation was late in filing its financial statements, and not just in 1986-87 but also in 1985-86 and 1984-85. This means that since the Conservative Government came to power— Could the Prime Minister explain to Canadians why this was the only Crown Corporation to be late in filing its financial statements in the current year, and could he inform the House about the technical reasons which the Minister of Public Works suggested yesterday were the cause of the delay?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, first of all, before talking about financial statements, what we started to do was to sell back land that had been unfairly expropriated.

Second, in implementing these policies and procedures, the Government made every effort to ensure that programs and policies were implemented satisfactorily, and we informed the Auditor General's office about this in great detail. It is also a fact that when financial statements are filed late, they appear in the subsequent year's Public Accounts.

M. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, the Government is hardly in a position to talk about unfair treatment.

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister and it concerns the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel. During the last few days we have learned of no less than two RCMP investigations and an internal audit by the Department of Public Works. We now know of a fired board of directors of the Canada Lands Company and the possibility of 50 additional land flips.

Just what does it take to make the Government move on the issue of the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel? Why will the Prime Minister not learn anything from the Parker Commission of Inquiry and learn that it is time that he started to clean up his act?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, again, I believe the Minister already answered the question yesterday, and perhaps I may continue along those lines. Initially, the land redistribution decision was made and implemented by this Government, and as I said before, all the steps taken by the Government were aimed at ensuring these activities were justified and would be followed up. I repeat that in his report, the Auditor General commented on the excellent performance of this Government, and we are convinced, as I said before, that the Department and the Government have done everything to ensure the situation was dealt with satisfactorily.

[*English*]

DISARMAMENT

U.S.A.—U.S.S.R. AGREEMENT—COMMUNICATIONS WITH AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN LEADERS

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I would like to preface it by saying how very pleased all Canadians are that a very historic treaty was reached in Washington yesterday between Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Jewett: In view of the fact that there is some concern, however, that the elimination of intermediate range nuclear missiles may in fact lead to an increase in nuclear missiles that are submarine-based or air-launched, and the recognition by President Reagan that this indeed could happen on both sides, could the Prime Minister tell the House whether, in the period of time leading up to the INF negotiations, he communicated with both Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan on the matter of the desirability of reducing submarine-launched and air-launched Cruise missiles and, if he did communicate, what was their reply?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I join with my hon. friend in conveying our congratulations to both sides on achieving an historic agreement on the reduction of nuclear arms, and in a special way I know my hon. friend would want me, on behalf of the Government, to convey congratulations to President Reagan and to all members of NATO whose solidarity brought about in large measure such an accomplishment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I think the fact that this kind of very important achievement, which escaped the leadership of both sides in the past, was brought about in large measure by the great solidarity of NATO and statesmanship on both sides should be underlined here in the House.

With regard to the communications, indeed I had the privilege of communicating with the General Secretary and the President in respect of the matters raised by my hon. friend prior to the signature some days ago.

AIR AND SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED MISSILES

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has not made clear whether he asked both of them to address the issue of massive reductions in strategic offensive weapons.

Did he ask both or did he tell both of them of Canada's particular concern about air-launched Cruise missiles and submarine-launched Cruise and ballistic missiles? Did he specifically ask? Finally, did he also press upon both the need now for a comprehensive test ban before there is further enlargement or enhancement of the nuclear arms race?