

*Oral Questions*

Will the Government of Canada be asking the governments of Egypt, Syria and Jordan to also join the international community in protesting against acts of terrorism so that there can be a total agreement and consensus among all countries in the Middle East that terrorism is not the way to peace?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this is a consistent part of our message to all of the countries in the Middle East.

In the multilateral round concerning the peace process that was held in Moscow, I had a first-hand opportunity to speak to many of the countries on both sides of this issue and explain to them Canada's very strongly held views considering terrorism and violence among many of the other things that we talked about, but that certainly is a key part of the message that we portrayed then. We will continue to make it not just in the case of this instance but on a consistent basis.

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**ENERGY**

**Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It focuses on the indications of the Saskatchewan Romanow government that the energy agreement between Canada and Saskatchewan and the nuclear agreement between AECL and Sask Power will be ripped up.

What does the minister see as the potential impact of this premature action by the NDP Government of Saskatchewan? What will it mean for the future of energy for the people of Saskatchewan, including our aboriginal community in my province?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we were very much involved in the agreement that AECL entered into with the Saskatchewan government on behalf of Canada.

With the diversification which I as a member coming from from the prairies know has to take place, we thought we could get diversification in Saskatchewan because it has a world class uranium industry. In fact, it is the single largest private employer in Saskatchewan today.

We also are willing to have an examination. We were not forcing a Candu III on them. We were looking at an ability for them to get the engineering, the research, the technical help and also research, for instance, at the University of Saskatchewan. All those things were included. In fact, we were ready to transfer up to 170 people into Saskatchewan. That has all been stopped by the recent announcement of the premier.

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• (1500)

**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden):** Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the Minister of Veterans Affairs that the merchant mariners of World War II have been asking for justice since 1945 and still do not have it.

Last October the standing committee tabled a unanimous report recommending that merchant navy veterans be recognized as full veterans entitled to all veterans benefits, that an appropriate memorial be erected for merchant seamen and that a Book of Remembrance be placed in the Peace Tower.

The minister's response consisted of a letter to the chairman saying his reply was going to take another month.

When does the minister expect a report from General Smith, his so-called adviser? Will he table his recommendations in this House? When does he expect to report further to the House? Will he do it by making a statement in this House or is he going to continue the callous disregard and indifference to merchant seamen by every government since 1945?

**Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, certainly I and all of my predecessors, and I am sure every parliamentarian here, agree that the merchant mariners underwent some very difficult conditions during the war supplying our troops and so on.

For that very reason, not only this government but previous governments as well, gave them a whole array of programs. There is a misconception out there that they are not getting anything. They get disability pensions, Veterans Independence Programs in some circumstances, civilian war allowance, prisoner of war allowance, campaign medals except the CVSM, atten-