

the minister bring us up to date as to what our government is doing with regard to dealing with this problem through the United States government?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, this is a matter in which my colleague the Minister of the Environment is also interested because his department conducted a study on the effect of chemical pollution and found that chemical pollution of the Great Lakes would not be worsened by the operation of the SCA chemical waste plant there. With regard to the Niagara Falls, New York, sewage treatment plant, there has been a great deal of concern expressed by the Government of Canada. My colleague spoke on it several times. We sent a note on that subject to the United States in April and we are considering a further note at this time.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

F-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT—PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, my question was for the Minister of National Defence but in his absence I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister. F-18 airplanes continue to malfunction and crash. Friday's *Ottawa Citizen* carried a story to the effect that U.S. defence secretary Harold Brown is mounting a campaign in the U.S. Senate to save the F-18 and has written to John Stennis, the chairman of the defence subcommittee in this matter, indicating, and I quote:

The costs of stopping and restarting production efforts by the prime contractor, McDonnell Douglas, and all subcontractors would be prohibitive and tantamount to program cancellation.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister inform the House what the Government of Canada is planning to do in relation to that last event, what costs would be incurred, and what are the present contingency plans?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I will take that question as notice and try to provide the information to the hon. member later.

Mr. Ogle: My supplementary is also for the Deputy Prime Minister. On the weekend the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs were in attendance at the North-South round table meeting here in Ottawa and gave some excellent input to that meeting. At that meeting, delegates from around the world indicated very clearly that one of the great problems of underdevelopment is the gap they see now between armament and underdevelopment. Will the Deputy Prime Minister inform the Minister of National Defence that we should buy at least one F-18 before they all crash, so that it can be placed in our national air museum to indicate the end of an era?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I believe the hon. member's question was mainly rhetorical. However, I do not believe I ought to let him escape with the notion that equipping the Canadian Armed Forces so that Canada can participate in the common defence effort as a member of the NATO organization is a dishonourable objective or that it in any way interferes with Canada's determination to co-operate with others in bringing about disarmament throughout the world.

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EXTERNAL AID

CONSIDERATION OF TRIPARTITE AID TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the large surplus of petro dollars available to certain developing states, combined with Canada's status as an industrialized nation possessing technology that is badly needed in the Third World, has the minister considered giving priority to tripartite aid arrangements, whereby Canada would provide technological aid in conjunction with, for example, Arab financing of future development projects, and will the Prime Minister be discussing this subject during his current trip to the Middle East?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the issue of the recycling of oil revenues is a matter which concerns the government a great deal. We are certainly exploring co-operation, not only among developed countries but with developing countries such as Saudi Arabia, in dealing with this problem. This is certainly a general area which the Prime Minister is canvassing in his talks with the Saudi government. However, neither our goals nor his talks specifically focus on so-called tripartite arrangements. That is one possibility, but it is only one of a range of possibilities.

● (1450)

Mr. Wenman: A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. Recognizing, of course, that the difficulties being encountered in the Middle East as a result of the Iran-Iraq crisis, and the nature of the multilateral aid from that region, makes tripartite aid even more imperative at the moment, will the minister consider initiating discussions between officials of CIDA and officials of the proposed Alternate Energy Corporation, Ener-tech Canada, to determine the potential applicability of renewable energy, particularly solar energy? I will give a specific example, such as the solar energy pumps used for pumping water in Somalia. Will the minister consider working with his colleague toward the transfer of technology to Third World countries like Somalia, particularly in relation to solar energy?

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, I will certainly be prepared to give that proposal very serious consideration. I might remind the hon. member and the House that in the recent budget it was made clear that Petro-Canada would be launch-