

*Oral Questions*

United States on sanctions to strengthen the parallel accords.

If the Canadian government does not agree with the President of the United States on the kind of sanctions proposed to solve the problems, could the minister tell us what other sanctions will be put forward or what other sanctions the government is proposing, so that when we have agreements, there will be penalties for those who break them?

[*English*]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I think the point the Prime Minister was making was a point that the Minister for International Trade has made on several occasions. The trade deal is the trade deal.

Now the question on a parallel accord respecting the environment and labour codes should have mechanisms for ensuring compliance and so on, but those mechanisms should not effectively undermine the accomplishments of the trade deal.

The Americans have put a position on the table, negotiations are going on and we will see where those negotiations end up. Canada's position is very clear. We do not want to undermine the benefits of the trade deal by adopting inappropriate conclusions on the parallel accord.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, it is not a very convincing argument put forward by the minister.

We would like to know the position of the government at the negotiations at this time. If we need to have some rules governing the environment and the labour conditions, we would like to know exactly what kind of penalties this government is proposing to make sure that every one of the partners will respect the conditions agreed upon.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, those are under active consideration and active discussion.

There is a whole myriad of ways in which we can achieve compliance and have dispute resolving mechanisms and so on. Our position is simply that whatever we do on the parallel accord side should not have the effect

of undermining the benefits of the free trade agreement and that remains our position.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member talks about myriad solutions, but why can the government not pick one of them and tell us what it is? It does not have a myriad; it does not have one.

We would like to know because it is very important. The President of the United States said that the Americans will not proceed with the NAFTA deal if they do not have an agreement on the environment and labour conditions.

I would like to know from the minister the position of this government in the light of the sanctions proposed by the American government.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I am sure the hon. member would think we were not very responsible if we were negotiating in public in terms of Canada's position.

• (1420)

I would remind the hon. member that we have a whole range of international agreements, including agreements with the United States, bilateral agreements on acid rain, on Great Lakes clean-up and so on, all of which have in them performance criteria and all of which have what was viewed at the time as sufficient teeth to ensure compliance by both sides.

That is the kind of thing we are looking at rather than something that interferes with benefits of the trading arrangements.

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**BOSNIA**

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the minister of external affairs and the minister of defence, I will put my question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Members of my caucus have asked me to express on their behalf and on behalf of their constituents the sense of outrage that we feel about the continuing slaughter that is going on in Bosnia and the indifference of the United Nations and the member states to the horrible conditions there.