

Oral Questions

to persist in simply cannot be provided on the basis of the independent legal advice I have received. If we could iron that out, we could sign any day.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NICARAGUA—FATE OF JEWISH COMMUNITY**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and relates to the state of the Jewish community in Nicaragua under the Sandinista Regime. Has the Minister received the same information about the fate of that community as is available to me, namely, that it is being exterminated by the Sandinistas? The president of the Jewish Association is in jail; those who are out of the country are being refused re-entry permits, their lands are being confiscated, and the synagogue has been converted into a child daycare centre.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have not received the information which the Hon. Member has mentioned. He has stated a series of facts which, if true, are certainly a cause for concern. I will check into the matter as quickly as possible.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I would appreciate if the Minister would check into the facts. We do have an ambassador in the area and I hope he is still persona grata in Nicaragua.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT LODGE PROTEST

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I understand that all Jews in Nicaragua are under the ban. They are either out of the country and not being allowed back in, or they are being harassed and their property confiscated while they are there, or they are being thrown in jail. Will the Minister also consider the notion of making a very firm protest to the Nicaraguans about their handling of this particular community in Nicaragua?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, as I said, I will request immediate information on the points made by the Hon. Member, and indeed I will follow up with the appropriate action.

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**EXEMPTION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BANKS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. I understand that Cabinet, through an Order in Council, has exempted a total of 19 information banks from the provisions

of the new access to information legislation. The Solicitor General's Department apparently controls five of these information banks which have been classified as exempt. We have learned in recent weeks that thousands of Canadians in the peace movement have been the subject of surveillance and that some citizens are indeed the object of, and I quote, "permanent wire taps and electronic surveillance". Will the Minister tell this House whether the information now being gathered on individuals in the peace movement is going into those exempt information banks?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I can certainly contradict, with my knowledge and the reports I have from the Security Service, the suggestion that thousands of Canadians are under surveillance because they belong to the peace movement. That is false, and I have indicated before that that is false.

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HATE LITERATURE**DISTRIBUTION IN OLDS, ALTA.**

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice who will be aware that hate literature has been distributed in Olds, Alberta, by the Nationalist Party of Toronto. Over the weekend it was indicated that this Party intends to distribute more such literature in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary. Will the Minister tell us what, if anything, he intends to do about it?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, I am not familiar with the incident to which my hon. friend refers. But, given the way he describes it, I would not understand why this would not be a matter for enforcement by the Attorneys General of the various Provinces. That is the normal course of such prosecutions, and he has said nothing to indicate this situation is exceptional in that regard.

NATIONALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, will the Minister tell us if the Nationalist Party of Canada, a neo-Nazi Party, is legal and registered under the laws of Canada or the Provinces, and whether the Government contemplates any legislation to make it illegal for neo-Nazi Parties to operate in this country?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, we do not normally proscribe any groups in this country on the basis of their name. I am not sure that under the requirements of the Charter it would be possible to take such an approach. But we do have laws which provide that certain kinds of activity on the part of people who stir up hatred or other forms of a breach of the peace can be prosecuted according to the normal way, in actions brought by the Attorneys General of the Provinces.