

*Oral Questions**[English]***BOSNIA—HERCEGOVINA**

**Mr. Jack Frazer (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence or the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Yesterday for the first time in its 44 year history NATO forces launched an offensive air attack, in this case on ground positions of Bosnian Serbs. This follows a recent downing of Serbian aircraft violating a no fly zone over Bosnia.

Was the minister informed of these attacks before they took place and if so, did he approve of these NATO air attacks on Serbian positions?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we were informed of what took place. As you know we have military personnel who are very much involved in the operations and what has been done has been done according to UN resolutions.

**Mr. Jack Frazer (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, many Canadians are concerned that Bosnia could quickly turn into a combat situation and that restrictive orders or insufficient equipment may leave our troops overly vulnerable.

Can the minister assure the House that Canadian troops in Bosnia are adequately authorized, prepared and equipped to defend themselves if this situation deteriorates?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that our objective is to not have an escalation of the war. This is why we are pursuing vigilantly our efforts to persuade parties to take part in the peace process.

● (1455)

We are very much encouraged by recent initiatives taken by the Americans and the Russians that have brought some of the parties to the table. It has led to a very historic and important agreement being signed in Washington that involves the Croats and Muslims.

Unfortunately the Bosnian Serbs have not yet agreed to be part of this peace process. We hope that they will come to the only alternative there is, which is to make peace and join in the peace effort with the others.

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**FISHERIES**

**Mr. Derek Wells (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

There continue to be reports of Spanish and Portuguese vessels taking undersized cod outside the 200 mile limit on the nose and tail of the Grand Banks.

Will the minister tell the House what the government is doing to stop this activity?

**Hon. Brian Tobin (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his question.

We have recent reports of Spanish and Portuguese vessels taking undersized fish outside the 200 mile limit. There have been about 13 citations issued this year. Most of those citations have been issued for the catch of undersized fish on the Flemish Cap. As the member knows, this is an area where Canada does not conduct the fishery.

Nevertheless these catches of undersized fish are in violation of the conservation rules that we would apply to ourselves and in violation as well of NAFO conservation rules.

This morning I spoke to the European Fisheries Commissioner. I brought this matter to his attention and sought and received his assurance that member states of the European Union will prosecute and penalize those who engage in this kind of improper and illegal fishing activity.

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*[Translation]*

**EMPLOYABILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

**Mr. Michel Daviault (Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development.

As the federal budget creates unemployment and attacks the unemployed, all community groups were very concerned to learn that there will be no new employability development programs or EDPs in most regions. It seems there is no more money.

Can the minister confirm that the reason there is no new money for regular EDPs is because he has decided to keep a discretionary fund estimated at \$40 million for Quebec alone?

*[English]*

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification):** Mr. Speaker, earlier in question period the hon. member's colleagues were making a strong case that we provide more assistance for young people to give them a greater opportunity to get into the job market. Clearly we must look at ways in which we can direct our expenditures to those who are most in need.

We have made no final decision on those allocations. However, I do want to assure the hon. member that we are evaluating programs very carefully to see which ones work or do not work. We will use the very scarce resources we have to target those people in the province of Quebec and throughout Canada who most directly need assistance in getting back to work.