

unequivocal 'no' to Ottawa's request for new, voluntary import restrictions, to include trucks, before pushing measures which might cause Japan to retaliate by imposing tougher barriers to Canadian imports.

The *Globe and Mail* April 26 reported that Ontario Treasurer Frank Miller supported the United Auto Workers and industry representatives who wanted Japanese autos to be limited to fifteen percent of the Canadian market. The auto workers also wanted Japan to increase its imports of Canadian auto parts until April 1984. After that date Japanese auto exports to Canada would have to meet Canadian content requirements.

The Consumers Association of Canada announced May 12 that import quotas on Japanese cars were not in the consumer's interest. As well as causing prices to increase on Japanese cars, reduced supply would "also violate the principle of consumer choice," a press release from the association stated.

Mr. Lumley met with Japanese Minister of International Trade, Shintaro Abe, following the OECD meeting in Paris May 10, to press for bilateral agreements respecting trade. As well as being exporters of large numbers of automobiles, Japan maintains strict import barriers which have effected Canadian exports such as lumber. Although Mr. Lumley was not able to negotiate an agreement with Japanese representatives at the Paris meetings, he told the House of Commons May 17 that "some progress was made." Pressed for details by Derek Blackburn (NDP, Brant), the Trade Minister said that "if the hon. member wants a positive conclusion to the negotiations, I do not think that this is the place to discuss them." Mr. Lumley said that the Japanese had indicated at the OECD meeting that they would announce further import liberalization measures prior to the June Versailles Summit.

Those announcements came May 28. A news release from the Embassy of Japan included a statement by Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki asking Japanese businessmen to "extend a welcoming hand to foreign manufactured goods and investments." Measures for the further opening of the Japanese market include a relaxation of import restrictions such as import quotas on certain items, and a reduction or elimination of 215 import tariffs, covering a wide range of industrial and agricultural products.

The announcements did not pacify opposition MPs. A letter from Derek Blackburn to Prime Minister Trudeau May 31 said: "Because of the deep crisis in the Canadian auto parts industry, which I remind you is the largest auto employer in our country, I urgently request that you take the toughest possible stand in a face-to-face bilateral meeting with Japanese Premier Suzuki during the Versailles Summit. Specifically, I request that you demand eighty-five percent Canadian content on all Japanese cars and trucks or if the Japanese again refuse, a fifteen percent quota on Japanese imported cars and trucks." Mr. Trudeau responded to such demands in the House of Commons the same day by saying he did not want to promise to take that kind of protectionist attitude, but was happy to take notice of the questions.

Further debate in the House of Commons May 31 centered around reports that the shipment of Japanese cars into Canada had been almost halted because of tougher Canada Customs inspections off the west coast.

Regarding the customs delays, Benno Friesen (P.C., Surrey-White Rock-North Delta) said that "the guerrilla tactics adopted by the government are an amateurish and chicken-hearted reaction to the [International] Trade Minister's total inability to negotiate with the Japanese." Ed Lumley later told the House of Commons that "until such time as we arrive at a satisfactory settlement we feel there is no alternative, and therefore we have asked Canadian Customs to strengthen customs procedures at the point of entry. That is not something we want to do, as we had hoped to arrive at a mutually satisfactory decision. Unfortunately, that has not happened to date."

MEXICO

Nuclear Energy Bid

A possible sale of Candu nuclear reactors to Mexico may be jeopardized by austerity measures announced by that country late in April, the *Globe and Mail* reported May 17. On April 21, Mexican Ambassador to Canada Agustin Barrios Gomez had said that the measures will not affect the nuclear energy program, but later reports from observers in Mexico differed. One explanation was offered by a West German Minister, who told reporters that "No decision has been taken, but my assumption is that the entire nuclear program will be delayed," after meeting Mexican President José Lopez Portillo (*Globe and Mail*, May 17). Canada is prepared to lend Mexico the necessary funds to make the nuclear reactor sale. Atomic Energy of Canada has already spent between ten and twenty million dollars in bidding to develop nuclear plants in Mexico, the *Globe and Mail* article said.

In the House of Commons May 19, Mark Rose (NDP, Mission-Port Moody) disputed Canada's policy of financing foreign nuclear megaprojects. He called the Mexican bid "just another in the long list of fruitless mega-write-offs of the taxpayers money." On May 31, Prime Minister Trudeau told the House of Commons that he does not consider the Mexican contract bid lost or doomed by the Mexican government's decision to postpone the date of decision of a nuclear reactor.

POLAND

Canada's Policy

The Progressive Conservative Party attacked Prime Minister Trudeau in the House of Commons twice during May for taking only "mild and ineffective measures" against the military government in Poland.

On May 4, Geoff Scott (P.C., Hamilton-Wentworth) moved that "this House censures the Prime Minister of Canada for his approval of martial law in Poland." On May 17, Progressive Conservative External Affairs critic John Crosbie (St. John's West) presented a motion that "this