

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I believe the United States has just published a white paper on this subject. I will endeavour to obtain a copy for the hon. member.

The evidence has mostly been captured documents in the form of letters and orders for weapons, that kind of thing, which show the source of the weapons. The fact that only American arms have been captured in El Salvador is exactly the point Secretary Haig made to me. They were American arms which were captured in Vietnam which could not have reached El Salvador if it had not been from Vietnam through Cuba and Nicaragua to El Salvador.

In fact, news reports today say that Nicaraguan government officials have admitted that arms have probably gone from Nicaragua to El Salvador. They have said it was not by official action on the government's part, but they admitted it was probably the case.

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

EFFECT OF OIL EXPORT TAX ON COASTAL ENTERPRISES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver-Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. If the oil export tax in its present form is applied to the tow-boat operators of the west coast—and there are 350 such boats—and if the export tax on oil is applied to the five companies involved in bunkering ocean-going vessels, severe hardship and possibly bankruptcy face these Canadian business enterprises. Will the minister reconsider the regulations and make realistic changes to protect these coastal enterprises?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I will be glad to consider the hon. member's representations, along with representations I have received from other interested parties who have raised the question of this particular tax.

Mr. Cook: The other night I was suffering under the delusion, when I made a speech in this House, that the minister was listening when I gave the facts with respect to this issue. Does the minister not realize that if he does not change this policy he will not be dealing with bunker C and D oil but with exporting not only jobs but tax revenues from this country? If the minister does not know this, then will he please consult with some officials of the Department of Transport who at least have some idea of the idiocy of the energy policy and the finance policy with regard to this export tax on oil and gas?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, if an effort to place equity in the tax system is idiocy, then I plead guilty to idiocy.

Oral Questions

● (1450)

IMMIGRATION

ENTICEMENT OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS TO ATTEND TORONTO TRAINING COLLEGES

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs to whom I delivered notice by hand so I hope he has received it. Press reports in Kuala Lumpur allege that the Canadian authorities there, particularly the High Commission, are closing an eye to a questionable education racket practised by private Canadian concerns running so-called pre-university private colleges, primarily in Toronto. The allegation is that, through extensive advertising in the newspapers of that country, Malaysian students are being brought over in considerable numbers to the pre-university training colleges. This is not required as many of the students already have the necessary qualifications.

Has the minister had reports of this particular questionable enterprise? Has he had an opportunity, through his department, to investigate it and, if so, can he report to the House?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have to apologize to the hon. member if there has been any inefficiency on the part of my office or the mails. I have not received notice of the question yet and I have not heard of this practice. I will have to take the question as notice.

SUGGESTED SCRUTINY OF INSTITUTIONS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and I am sorry that I did not give him notice of it. Is it the policy of his department to allow students into this country for the purpose of so-called pre-university courses in order to upgrade their ability to enter Canadian universities? If that is the case, does he have knowledge of it and has he scrutinized those institutions which offer the service?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, when there is an application for a student visa, the normal practice is to determine the credentials of the institution concerned. I will be very pleased to look into the case raised by the hon. member if he will give me the information, and will determine how legitimate the institutions are.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORTED PHASING OUT OF DEW LINE—NEGOTIATION OF NEW CANADIAN ROLE IN NORAD

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. As the DEW Line and other land-based radar fades into relative