

Oral Questions

clear up this matter. I made no such statement. There is no intent on our part to do what the Hon. Member suggests.

The Navy is in great need of new equipment after years and years of neglect. We are doing everything we can to provide that new equipment. Part of what we are trying to do is with respect to a program for minor war vessels. The \$100 million figure to which the Hon. member refers goes back to 1982 when the then Liberal Government turned down such a program. If and when we can find the money to proceed with the program, I can assure the Hon. Member that the ships will be built in Canada, by Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CANADIAN SOURCING

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I remind the Minister that it was his Party which made eight specific promises with regard to the shipbuilding industry and that it has not fulfilled one. I take it from the Minister's earlier statement that he is giving the House an undertaking that if there is to be a procurement policy by his Department with regard to the shipbuilding industry it will clearly be with respect to ships made here in Canada by Canadian labour. Will he confirm that undertaking?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I thought I just did.

Mr. Dingwall: It's in contradiction of the Minister of Transport.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LIBYA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—MILITARY RESPONSE
TO TERRORISM

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. American sabre-rattling off the coast of Libya now threatens to turn into "the real thing". Canadians want to know where their Government really stands. Does the Prime Minister think that military action is an appropriate response to terrorism? Will he agree that such action will lead to a further escalation of international tension and, in fact, to an increase in terrorism and international tension?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I responded earlier in this regard. However, I should tell my hon. friend that in a statement on January 10 I set out our position on behalf of the Government, that is to say that those who murder and maim innocent people and who bring anarchy to civilized society should have no sanctuary, no comfort, and no indulgence.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to say no sanctuary, no comfort, and no indulgence; it is another to engage in a retaliatory strike.

● (1150)

SAFETY OF CANADIANS IN LIBYA

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of this very serious situation, what is the Government prepared to do to ensure the safety of individual Canadians, in addition to finding out where they are and asking them to reassess their personal situations?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Government has and will continue to develop contingency plans to be of assistance to Canadians. Their welfare and security are of the highest concern.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

RESIGNATION OF FORMER MINISTER OF FISHERIES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House Leader referred to the Prime Minister's press conference, which prompts me to ask a question that was not answered at that conference. It relates to the resignation of the former Minister of Fisheries. On March 7, in an interview with *The New York Times*, the Prime Minister said: "When it was brought to my attention", that is to say the rotten tuna, "bang! Immediately the Minister's resignation was secured". How does he reconcile that statement in that interview with his "Dear John" letter of September 23, 1985, six days after the issue became public, to the then Minister saying: "I have received your letter in which you request that you be relieved of your responsibilities". In other words, the Minister and the Prime Minister recognized that the then Minister resigned. In *The New York Times* he said that he was fired immediately, but the letter of resignation came only six days after the issue became public.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I said no such thing. The context of both incidents is clear, and there is no inconsistency in the position.

NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister was directly quoted in the *The New York Times* and we have the transcript. Further, the issue was brought to the attention of the country on September 17, 1985. On September 18, in the House, the Prime Minister refused the resignation and refused the Opposition—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the right hon. gentleman have a supplementary question?