

Oral Questions

[English]

VIET NAM—DATE OF RELEASE OF TWO CANADIAN OFFICERS ATTACHED TO CONTROL COMMISSION WHO DISAPPEARED

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence under whose jurisdiction and authority these officers are serving. Can the minister inform the House when he expects these officers may be released under the circumstances which have been related?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Chief of Staff is in hourly contact with General McAlpine in Saigon. We have the information that has been revealed to the House by the parliamentary secretary. But I have no further information to add.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POLICY RESPECTING SPECIAL AREAS—DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Further to his discussions with the Quebec authorities concerning the changes to be made in the special areas program, does the minister intend to make an announcement to the House that we might be made aware of the results of those talks?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): As I have stated on a number of occasions, a federal-provincial work force is now discussing the papers and supplementary documents which I tabled on Friday. To date, no conclusions have been reached, but this is to be expected since the subject is a complex one. I hope to be able to say something definite on the result of these talks within a fortnight.

[Translation]

DESIGNATED AREAS—DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC—POSSIBLE REVIEW OF POLICY

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Minister, I wish to ask the following question: As a result of your conversations with the Quebec government—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member kindly put his question to the Chair rather than directly to the minister?

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary to the minister.

Do you intend, as a result of your talks with the province of Quebec, to alter the federal government policy on designated areas?

[Mr. De Bané.]

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The minister can assume that the question was asked of him through the chair.

[Translation]

Mr. Grafftey: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. The question is much more specific. Please excuse me. I may have expressed my question poorly.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think it would be simpler if we allowed the minister to reply to the question to whomsoever it was addressed.

Mr. Jamieson: Through you, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The situation is that the objective of our negotiations with the Province of Quebec and, indeed, with the other provinces, is to take advantage of economic opportunities regardless of where they happen to exist in a province rather than keeping within geographical dividing lines. In other words, there will be some changes in the so-called special areas or designated areas.

[Translation]

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Does the hon. minister intend to change his regional development policy before the end of this year?

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have already indicated that this is the intention. We, of course, must have a federal-provincial agreement as the basis of our operations. So before anything could be announced specifically it would be necessary for it to be incorporated into a federal-provincial agreement. As I mentioned, I hope to secure at least a general developmental agreement with Quebec and some other provinces in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: I see there are a number of hon. members wishing to ask supplementary questions. The House will have noticed that 20 minutes or so have elapsed and we still have not completed the first round of questions. For the moment, the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Bellechasse.

[Translation]

PROJECTS TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Under the new policy which the minister intends to announce very shortly, will the larger municipalities be able to negotiate their respective projects directly with the department or will they have to continue making applications through the provincial planning agencies?