

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON INQUIRY INTO INTERPOL—
NATURE OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY ORGANIZATION

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General.

Considering that Senator Joseph Montoya, Chairman of the America treasury grant sub-committee, is carrying out a thorough investigation into the financing of Interpol and its activities within the United States, an organization which is jointly financed by the United States and other member countries including Canada, can the minister advise the House whether his department is also investigating this international organization which operates in Canada and over which the Canadian government has no control whatever?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, my department is not taking part in any such studies. The RCMP is a member of Interpol which has its headquarters in Paris, France. Interpol is merely a centre for the exchange of information and is not an operational agency. I will look into the other aspects of this question.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Is the minister aware that while Interpol disclaims any access to privileged information in Canada, it has nevertheless access to all facilities and information of Canadian police forces and may therefore disclose this information to Communist countries which are members of this organization. My question is this: can the minister tell the House whether he is aware of the sort of information which may be passed on to Communist countries through Interpol?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, there are no communist members of Interpol, except perhaps Yugoslavia. As I mentioned to the hon. member, Interpol is an organism for the interchange of information in respect of known criminals. The RCMP will provide information to other countries in respect of criminals who may have had some operations in Canada, and those other countries will provide information to us in the same manner. I know of no basis of information that would support the question asked by the hon. member.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question.

Can the minister assure the House that the information available to Interpol is not passed to other members of that agency and that the RCMP exercises control over the information given to Interpol?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: I will look into that question, Mr. Speaker. I think I should point out to the House that the RCMP have some members of their force working at Interpol headquarters in Paris and the President of Interpol is a former commissioner of the RCMP.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—REASONS ADVANCED BY UNITED STATES FOR
CHANGE IN TIMING OF INCREASE IN EXPORT PRICE

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact the minister said that because of the representations by the United States government at a meeting held in Ottawa Tuesday morning the government will probably reconsider the timing and the price in respect of the export of natural gas and change the August 1 date, would the minister tell us what were the new items brought to the attention of the government by the government of the United States which caused the government to change its mind in this matter.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The United States representatives wished a longer term phasing-in of the price increases in respect of natural gas.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is again directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Could the minister tell us whether in the course of these conversations, either directly or indirectly, the United States representatives suggested that with the change in price proposed by the Canadian government there might be some type of retaliation either in the form of capital flows, export quotas on beef and so on brought into play.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is there was never so much as a hint of this.

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IMMIGRATION

DECISION OF UNITED STATES TO ADMIT SOUTH
VIETNAMESE—POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS CANADA
FOLLOW SAME COURSE

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of the announcement by the United States immigration and naturalization service that it will admit a maximum of 50,000 high-risk South Vietnamese to the United States has the United States made any representation to Canada to also accept a number of South Vietnamese refugees.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY WHETHER VIETNAMESE GIVEN REFUGEE STATUS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, in respect of those who are leaving South Viet Nam, could the minister tell us whether or not the department considers these people as refugees or whether any statement has been made by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees which would indicate that there is status given these people as international refugees.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that people