

*Oral Questions*

decision the report should be made public we will certainly see that the person representing the plaintiffs will receive the report before the report is made public.

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**EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

## SIZE OF POLISH CONSULATE IN ETOBICOKE—LAKESHORE

**Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke—Lakeshore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of External Relations. In light of current construction doubling the size of the Polish consulate located in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, even though no apparent reason exists to justify this increased activity, could the Minister inform the House whether the Government of Canada has authorized any increase in the number of Polish government representatives accredited to work at this consulate?

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations):** Mr. Speaker, departmental staff requirement assessments are based on two criteria, namely reciprocity and assessment of needs.

As to the consulate mentioned, I can tell the Hon. Member that we have recently recommended that one Toronto consulate position be transferred to the Montreal consulate.

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**TRADE**

## INQUIRY WHETHER SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD WITH AMERICANS ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who, earlier, failed to answer the question put to him by my hon. colleague from Winnipeg—Fort Garry. I therefore repeat the question: Will there be separate talks with the Americans on softwood or was Senator Packwood misled by the President of the United States?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the President told Senator Packwood. All I can say to my hon. friend, who was far more specific in the way he phrased his question than his friend from Winnipeg—Fort Garry, is that we have an agreement with the U.S. Government to start the negotiating process, without any preconditions. That is the spirit in which we intend to approach the entire process.

## REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister being facetious? If he agreed with the President of

the United States there would be no preconditions, does that mean that they agreed on a full set of "post" conditions, so that there are conditions just the same? The Prime Minister may have been alluding to this in a press conference, when he referred to trade-offs. He may have said there were no preconditions, but there may be a whole series of conditions agreed on beforehand that will be discussed once the talks have started, and what are those conditions?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I can inform my hon. friend that there is nothing of the sort. When I said that we had no preconditions, there were no other kinds of conditions involved either.

Yesterday, I mentioned in a discussion that I know from personal experience, and in fact anyone who has any experience in this area knows perfectly well that in negotiations as complex as these, which involve trade worth \$150 billion a year between our two countries, there will be an exchange of views and there will be compromises. That is the very nature of fruitful negotiations. So from the outset one says: I am not going to touch that or I won't do this, we will see. But we know that there will be an exchange of opinions and views throughout the talks on this subject, and we hope that the ultimate outcome will be very favourable for Canada and the United States.

If that is not the case, Canadians will decide not to accept it, and the Americans will do the same. However, we are convinced that as a result of serious and mature talks, our prosperity will be enhanced and that here in Canada we will create a new dimension of wealth and new jobs for Canadians as a result of these bilateral talks.

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● (1500)

[English]

**POINTS OF ORDER**

## TERRORISM—STATEMENT OF MINISTER

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, if you are going to make a statement on the matter which I raised with you yesterday, would you reserve any statement in view of the fact that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) is absent from the House? It is my understanding that you undertook to look at the "blues".

**Mr. Speaker:** As the Hon. Member knows, the normal practice is that when the Speaker is asked to consider a matter in the "blues", if he thinks there is anything to bring back, he will do so.

## ACCEPTABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would request that Your Honour look at the "blues" because we on this side of the House are surprised