

The Hon. Member and the House will know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is meeting with his NATO counterparts now, as indeed we will be meeting in ten days in London at the Economic Summit. The Gulf situation will be discussed at both places. However, I know of no statement contemplated by the Minister at this time.

CONSULTATIONS WITH CANADA

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Would the Prime Minister indicate if we, as a Government, have been consulted by the United States, Great Britain, France or any other country that may have an interest in that area and, if so, what has been the nature of those consultations? Have we, for example, been invited to participate in any ongoing negotiations with the hope that a settlement could be reached?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it would depend on what the Hon. Member has in mind as consultations. It is a matter on which I have consulted in the various meetings I have had with heads of government, particularly when I was in the Persian Gulf a few months ago. Therefore, it is a matter on which there have been consultations.

I know of no formal request made at this time of the Canadian Government, nor have we made any formal request of the United States or any of the countries in the area.

Mr. Stevens: Of course, I am referring to the consultations that may have occurred since the escalation of the conflict, the damaging of various ships, and the killing of so many people.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, when answering the question about consultations, would the Prime Minister also indicate if any arrangements have been made to remove the 50 Canadian workers who are in Iraq, and possibly our Embassy staff, in the event that Iran carries out its threat of a massive attack on Iraq early in June?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member seems to want to detach consultations about current events from earlier consultations. The war between Iran and Iraq is one which has been the object of attention by most nations for the past couple of years. We discussed it at great length during my visit to the area. I know that the Secretary of State discussed it at great length during his visit to the area.

I do not think that the current events are different, except maybe slightly in degree, from events which have worried the world and the people in the area for the past two years. We are continuing to consult and continuing to seek solutions to this problem.

I will be quite frank with the Hon. Member. We have no solutions. I have seen no solutions either in the minds of Governments in the area. They are faced with a war which

everyone deplores and which no one seems to have the power to stop.

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● (1420)

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

VANCOUVER TELEVISION STATION'S APPLICATION TO RELOCATE TRANSMISSION TOWER

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications, who is absent. There are only 14 Ministers in the House, and only two of them are leadership candidates.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Friesen: Only two are interested in a British Columbia problem since only two leadership candidates are here. My question concerns a television station in Vancouver, and I will direct it to the Prime Minister.

Television station CKVU is planning, or is making application to relocate its transmission tower, thereby having the effect of dislocating channel 10, the community channel, as well as PBS channel 9, thereby putting PBS on either an impaired or a mid-band channel. Since the newspaper unions were on strike until last week, the public has been totally unaware of this application and, therefore, has been unable to prepare interventions. The closing date for the application is tomorrow. Can the Prime Minister direct the CRTC to postpone hearings in order to preserve some semblance of fairness and give the public a chance to prepare interventions with respect to that application?

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is well aware that, first, the CRTC operates within its own guidelines as set down by Parliament. I would have hoped the Hon. Member, being a conscientious representative of that area of the country, would have made his own representations to the CRTC. It is not up to the Government of the day to make a specific response or to ask a specific question, as the Hon. Member is suggesting.

IMPACT ON PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, as CKVU is trying to negotiate a sale of that station, and since PBS is one of the most popular stations because from 40 per cent to 70 per cent of its subscribers along the border are Canadians, I would ask the Parliamentary Secretary why the public who want to watch PBS have to turn to an impaired or a mid-band channel in order to enhance the sale of CKVU for a higher profit.

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, we have no evidence that