

Oral Questions

before the courts. If there were a consistent pattern of judgments in favour, for example, of farmers against the banks, then it seems to me that that would strengthen their case against the banks, and government intervention would be unnecessary. I do not see how government intervention would help at all in this instance.

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THE COMMONWEALTH

FIJI ISLANDS—SITUATION FOLLOWING MAY COUP

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations Canada continues to play a vital leadership role in that august body. A member of that body, the Fiji Islands, recently underwent significant turmoil.

Will the Minister advise the House of developments in Fiji subsequent to the May 14 coup? Does he believe it is safe for Canadians to travel to the Fiji Islands on business or pleasure?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity last week to meet with a representative of the Governor General of Fiji who outlined to me the plans being undertaken by the Governor General to restore both a sense of national reconciliation and functioning parliamentary democracy in Fiji. In our judgment those plans have a good prospect of success. I am pleased to take this opportunity to indicate the full support of Canada for those plans by the Governor General.

With regard to the safety of Canadians, I have looked into the matter. I see no reason at all for any Canadian to have any concern about travelling to Fiji.

Mr. Speaker: The last question will be by the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA—CONTRA ATTACK ON CANADIAN AID PROJECT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On June 1 I asked the Minister to protest the attack by the U.S.-backed Contras on the Canadian Farmers for Peace project in Nicaragua and to facilitate a resolution in the House demanding a stop to attacks on civilian development projects. Now that the Minister has met with

U.S. Secretary Shultz on this matter is he willing to introduce the appropriate resolution today or tomorrow?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated I would in response to questions in the House, I raised that matter specifically with Mr. Shultz when we met in Reykjavik. I have asked for and have not yet seen details which the Secretary of State of the United States undertook to give me with respect to information as they have it regarding that particular attack.

I will not be in a position to accede to the Hon. Member's request today or tomorrow, and at least not before I have had an opportunity to see for myself the evidence that is promised to be forthcoming.

ATTACKS ON AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, the situation has not improved in Nicaragua. Last week two more agricultural co-ops were attacked. The peace talks proposed by President Arias of Costa Rica were cancelled due to pressure from the United States. Cannot the Government and this Parliament do more to stop the shameful and cruel interventions in that little country?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is true that the next step in the Arias proposals has at least been delayed. I do not think the cause of that delay is as clear as the Hon. Member suggests.

My view has been, and remains, that it is important for us as the Government of Canada to focus upon actual things that we can do rather than loud protests that we might raise. That is why we have worked as hard as we have through the Conadadora process.

However, I must say that I was shocked by the attack upon a Canadian aid project that involved, among other things, the loss of life of children. There should be no doubt in the minds of the United States Government about the abhorrence on the part of Canadians of actions of that kind.

Mr. Waddell: Short supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, the time for Question Period has expired.

I wish to advise the House that I have received a notice of a question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Skeena which I will hear. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East will be raising a point of order following that. I will then be giving a ruling on a matter that arose several weeks ago.