

people can be safely conveyed is it wise to have them airlifted from Grenada.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Use a boat.

**Mr. Regan:** In relation to emergency assistance, once hostilities cease we would very sympathetically examine any requirements for emergency assistance. The fact that Canada is now and has been at all relevant times represented on the ground by a representative of CIDA, and now by other officials of our High Commission in Barbados, we are in a good position to appraise the type of assistance which might be required and how it could best be delivered.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS—  
TRANSMITTAL TO OTTAWA

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** Madam Speaker, I, too, would like to direct a question to the Minister of State for International Trade who acknowledged in the House yesterday that on last Friday evening at about eight o'clock, three and a half days before the Grenadian invasion, the Canadian High Commissioner to Barbados, Noble Power, met with Prime Minister Adams of Barbados to seek his assessment of the Caribbean situation. At that meeting Prime Minister Adams told Mr. Power that the only solution was a military intervention. Could the Minister tell the House whether or not the results of that meeting, this assessment of Prime Minister Adams, was passed immediately on to Ottawa?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, for the Hon. Member to understand what occurred on Friday it might be useful to recount that Canadian High Commissioners in the region were instructed to contact the Prime Ministers to discuss the Grenadian situation with them, particularly in respect to what they intended to do or not do with reference to recognition of any new or interim government that existed within the chaos on the island. That discussion occurred between Mr. Noble Power, our High Commissioner in Barbados, and Mr. Adams. The discussion covered a number of matters in relation to the situation.

According to Mr. Power's report, in the course of that discussion one item mentioned by Mr. Adams was that it might be necessary for the eastern Caribbean states to consider the possibility of a military intervention. He specifically said that this was a matter which had not been discussed at a meeting of the other States, that it would have to be so discussed, that of course no decision therefore had been taken, and that there was no mention whatsoever of any American involvement.

REACTION OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** The Minister did not answer my specific question as to whether or not this information was immediately passed on to Ottawa. I would like to ask the Minister again whether that happened. If so, if

*Oral Questions*

this information was passed on to Ottawa immediately, what kind of action did Canada take? Did we take immediate diplomatic action, such as calling our allies in Washington, in London, and in other Commonwealth capitals, notably in the Caribbean, to let them know, and I quote the Prime Minister who said in the House on Tuesday, that Canada was not in the habit of supporting invasions of other countries. If we did not take any action over the weekend on this, why not?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, our allies are well aware of the fact that Canada is not accustomed to supporting military interventions. In addition, I think the Hon. Member would be quick to agree that a military invasion purportedly to be undertaken by the eastern Caribbean states on their own does not sound to be the world of reality at all, because of the very limited facilities that those people have for transportation of military people and also the lack of military forces that exists in those countries.

• (1130)

This was a question of an appraisal of a type that the Hon. Member would have made, about one comment made by Tom Adams. Had there been any mention of the use of forces from other countries, or of any serious intention to take action in that regard, I think the reaction would have been quite different. However, in view of the circumstances, the reaction was one that I consider to have been appropriate.

AIRLIFTING OF CANADIANS—REQUEST FOR AMERICAN  
ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade. Why is the Government so reluctant, and what does it find repugnant about asking the Americans to assist in taking Canadians off the island of Grenada? They have the forces, the facilities, and the craft. Why will the Government not ask the Americans to assist in taking Canadians off the island with their own aircraft?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, we are anxious for the Canadians who wish to leave the island to be moved to safety by any means whatsoever. We said to the Americans that we have a Hercules aircraft immediately available that has as its sole priority the removal of Canadians and any other people who want to come along with them on the aircraft. The Americans said that they would undertake to evacuate the Canadians, but they have not said when, and what priority that would receive. Members will recall that the American aircraft that are there have other priorities of a military nature. Ours has the sole priority of immediately removing Canadians as soon as they can be available at the airport. That is the distinction.