

*Oral Questions*

## REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the review which is going on. However, considering the growing escalation in South Africa, would the Minister not agree that something should be done immediately with respect to this matter? So that we could have the support of the entire House, would he do this review in consultation with the opposition Parties? Then Parliament could speak with one voice against this horrible crime against humanity.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think all Hon. Members of the House would agree that what we most need is to take action that would be effective, and that that means a co-ordination of action with other countries. That is one of the factors which has to be considered by the Government of Canada and by the Parliament of Canada.

With regard to the question of consultation, I would be pleased to engage in consultation either with official spokesmen of the two other Parties in the House or with persons they might designate, with an eye to seeing whether there might be unanimous agreement in the House of Commons on any statement, or position which might be taken.

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## INDUSTRY

## WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT COMPANY

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. In view of the attempt being made to save some 600 jobs at White Farm Equipment in Brantford, Ontario, would the Minister meet with the company president, Mr. William Sinclair, as soon as possible?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member for Brant, that meeting has been scheduled for midweek.

## FINANCIAL GUARANTEE PROPOSAL

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, the provincial Minister for Youth, who is also the provincial Member for Brantford accused the federal Government by asking: "Where was the action in Ottawa which might have helped us pull something off?" Would the Minister assure the House that he would at least look into the possibility of extending financial guarantees to the company during its troubled period?

● (1440)

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member, I know that he must be aware of the fact that the Hon. Member for Cambridge brought this to our attention. We have, through our officials, met with Mr. Sinclair. We heard his approxi-

mately \$50 million refinancing plan and where he felt the Government could be of some help. We have been in touch with the provincial authorities. In short, we have it in hand. We will be meeting with Mr. Sinclair in midweek, but we have nothing further to confirm or otherwise at the present time.

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## CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

## TRANSFER OF EDMONTON BASE COMMANDER

**Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Will the Minister indicate why the Department of National Defence has transferred Commanding Officer Colonel de Tracey to an Ottawa desk job, even though the results of the inquiry into the crash of the two C-130 Hercules at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton have not yet been released? Will the Minister also give the assurance that this outstanding individual will be allowed to continue in advancement in the Armed Forces?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, base commander Colonel de Tracey is being transferred to responsibilities here in Ottawa for which there was an outstanding vacancy and which, I am sure, he will fill in an outstanding way. With respect to the accident itself, if the inquiry is complete, it is not yet in my hands, but I can assure the Hon. Member that the posting for Colonel de Tracey was intended as a matter of course, notwithstanding the events that took place.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, I draw the attention of the Minister of the Environment to the scary experience of people in northern Ontario, and, for that matter, all people along the route from Montreal to Edmonton, following the spill which occurred over the weekend on the Trans-Canada Highway. Considering the danger that PCBs pose to human health as well as to the environment, I would like to ask the Minister what action she intends to take in order to prevent this occurrence from happening again.

[Translation]

**Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment):** In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to predict all hazardous situations that may occur, such as the spilling of PCBs, among others. Although this incident falls under provincial responsibility, I immediately got in touch with my colleague Minister Kells who gave me the following information. If Hon. Members are interested in knowing what immedi-