

is currently under consideration. It will offer some hope of easing further the circumstances under which exit visas are obtained.

One very worrisome trend to which the hon. member referred directly is the continuing reality of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. There are a variety of cultural and historic reasons for this. The tragic reality is that this continues to be a potent force in Russian life to this very day.

• (1730)

The Government of Canada notes that and also notes, with regret, that although emigration thresholds for Soviet Jews have risen considerably in recent times, there are still many Refusnik families waiting for permission to leave the U.S.S.R. Among those families is the particular case of Dr. Stonov to which the member has referred to again today.

I would like to assure the member, through you Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Canada will continue to press the Soviet authorities on these remaining cases. We have been doing that. We have had very good success rates.

Specifically, I should report to the House that a senior official of the Department of External Affairs recently met with Dr. Stonov's wife, Natalia Stonov. She presented that official with a petition concerning her husband's status, a petition that was addressed to the Soviet authorities. Mrs. Stonov was assured that the petition would be conveyed by us to the appropriate Soviet authorities, through the Canadian Embassy in Moscow.

Our Ambassador continues to work with diligence and as a matter of priority on these matters, reflecting the policy of the Mulroney government on these issues. Such cases are followed up with the priority that we feel that they most assuredly merit.

FISHERIES

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 1989 at page 4810 of *Hansard* the former Minister of Fisheries, on behalf of the federal government, expressed confidence that the 10 to 20 per cent direct export of salmon and herring could be

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effectively monitored in terms of conservation needs and management requirements.

On February 22, 1990 the Minister for International Trade and not the Minister of Fisheries announced that an agreement had been reached with the U.S. on the free trade act panel report which concluded that direct access by the U.S. to between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of our salmon and herring caught off the B.C. coast could be provided and still ensure that management needs could be met. It would appear that only the federal ministers of the government believed in this absurd proposition.

There are a number of points which could be touched upon in the course of the proceedings.

First, the agreement reached between Canada and the U.S. will allow for the direct export of 20 per cent of the salmon and herring catch in the first year of a four-year agreement with that increasing to 25 per cent in the years 1991 to 1993. At that time, the entire issue will be subjected to a review.

According to Carla Hills, the U.S. trade representative, this agreement is an interim arrangement only. In so far as the U.S. is concerned, the issue is not settled. It could well be that Canada has provided the U.S. with the precedents it requires to gain full access to our salmon and herring stocks by exceeding the limits recommended by the free trade act panel ruling.

Second, it must be kept in mind that what the U.S. objected to last spring was that landing requirements would impede access to salmon and herring. What the "at sea landing regulations" brought into effect on February 22 actually accomplished is merely to transfer the application of the landing regulations from a shore-based to a sea-based facility.

Third, the former minister told the House on June 14, 1989, as reported at page 3014 of *Hansard* that the imposition of landing regulations would not likely result in job losses. Obviously the minister has failed to read assessments made by and for his department.

In an April, 1989 background document on the landing requirements there appeared the following: "The revocation of the export restrictions could result in the export of large quantities of unprocessed fish. This will affect the raw material supply for processors".