

Oral Questions

indicated that because of the position of our economy today extraordinary measures will likely be required. In line with the—

Madam Speaker: Order. That is a rather long question.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, I will ask the question now. In line with the proposal of the minister responsible for economic development, is the Prime Minister or the Minister of State for Finance prepared to indicate to this House that because of conditions extraordinary steps are required and action is required now, not in the fall of 1982?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, if the hon. member is so well informed on the activities of this government, he will realize that in many sectors, important and indeed extraordinary measures have been taken to help businesses to adjust, and to assist the recovery of certain industrial sectors. Therefore, the hon. member should realize that government programs already contain special measures designed to help businesses to adjust and to promote economic recovery.

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[*English*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF CHINESE DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Madam Speaker: I have the honour of drawing the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of a Chinese delegation, headed by Mr. Xu Dixin, Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FALKLAND ISLANDS—QUERY RESPECTING RECOGNITION OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and deals with the very serious situation that exists in reference to the Falkland Islands. Does the Canadian government recognize the United Kingdom as having sovereignty over the Falkland Islands? Secondly, could the Prime Minister tell us what steps the government has taken since April 2 to support the United Kingdom in reversing the present aggression that has taken place in the Falkland Islands? What steps have we taken in addition to the pious expressions of support that we have given to date? What actual steps have we taken, and what might be contemplated in view of the present very serious situation?

• (1430)

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands is not for Canada to decide; it is a matter to be decided either by an international tribunal, whether it be an arbitration tribunal or the International Court of Justice, or by negotiation between the parties.

What is of great concern to Canada and to other peace abiding countries is that Argentina has chosen to try to settle a dispute over territory by recourse to force of arms and that the United Kingdom has had to have recourse to self-defence in order to regain those islands. That is the position that Canada has taken. It is in pursuance of that position that we have banned the export of war material to Argentina and that we have, like the members of the Common Market, imposed similar kinds of restrictions with respect to the entry of Argentinian imports to Canada.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister does not see this question as being important enough for him to answer. Let me tell the Secretary of State for External Affairs that what he has done to date is not sufficient. Apparently the Canadian government does not recognize the United Kingdom as having sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. That is an interesting admission.

REQUEST THAT ALL EXPORTS TO ARGENTINA BE BANNED

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): May I ask a supplementary question, Madam Speaker? The Secretary of State for External Affairs says that the action we have taken to date is to ban imports from Argentina and to ban the export of military supplies to that country. Will the government go further and ban any exports to Argentina during the period of this emergency in order to demonstrate or try to exert some pressure on Argentina? I refer specifically to the 3,000 nuclear fuel bundles that are supposed to be exported to Argentina by June 30. Has the government already or will it now ban any further exports to Argentina?

In addition to these expressions of support that we have heard, would the minister tell us what actual steps the Canadian government has been requested to take by the United Kingdom government, or what steps have been taken? Specifically, will we now ban all exports until this emergency is resolved?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the hon. member believes his question is important enough to be answered by the Prime Minister, but obviously his own leader does not believe that the question is important enough to be asked by him.

We have taken similar actions to those taken by members of the European Community with respect to Argentina. We are giving the identical kind of support to the United Kingdom that our other friends are giving, and more than some countries in the world are doing.