

Caspar Weinberger hopes to see it deployed this year, and that Canada has been asked to test it under the Cruise missile agreement. When will the Minister come clean with the Canadian House of Commons and tell us this in fact is the case?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, there is no request before Canada at the present time to test the Advanced Cruise. If one is received, we will consider it in due course. Perhaps when the Hon. Member is finished with her copies of *The Washington Post*, she can send them over.

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### FISHERIES

#### CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who has made much of an apology to Newfoundland over not being consulted. The Premier of Newfoundland has thrown that apology back in the face of the Government by saying: "I don't care if you didn't consult me about giving away the shop, you still gave away the shop". I want to ask the Minister, on behalf of the Premier and all inshore fishermen who are severely disadvantaged by this action, will the Minister now, on behalf of the Government, reconsider and cancel this pernicious deal with the French?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, what is so puzzling and what ought to be terribly frustrating for the people of Newfoundland is that a Member of Parliament from Newfoundland would get up and suggest that we should somehow terminate an agreement which is the best news in terms of resolving—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:**—offering a potential path to the resolution of a long-standing problem which is costing the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador millions of dollars a year, that is, the unresolved boundary dispute in 3PS, and at the same time, the negotiation of interim fishing arrangements to eliminate, once and for all, the overfishing by France in that disputed zone.

**Mr. Rompkey:** It is not just Members of Parliament. The Premier of Newfoundland has said it has to be cancelled because, if it is not, it is a disaster for the fishing industry. And he is speaking on behalf of all inshore fishermen and all of the people in that province.

#### DISAPPROVAL OF NEWFOUNDLANDERS

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador):** The Minister said on television last week—I heard him—that if this agreement does not meet with the approval of

the Newfoundland people, it can be changed. Will the Minister now do the honourable thing and cancel this agreement with the French?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is, no, because there is no give-away. I wish Hon. Members in the Opposition would stop perpetuating this notion that anything has been given away except a willingness by Canada and France to sit down over the next 11 months of this year and decide what concessions, if any, might be the price to be paid for the referral to compulsory third party arbitration of the long unresolved boundary dispute in the vicinity of St. Pierre and Miquelon. That is the only concession which has been made which is of significant concern. We believe that the consequence will prove to be of significant benefit to Newfoundland and to all of Atlantic Canada.

● (1430)

#### FRENCH NAVAL VESSELS—REPORTS OF THREATENED ENTRY TO CANADIAN WATERS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. On Friday, Premier Buchanan of Nova Scotia said he had heard reports that the French were preparing to send naval vessels with their trawlers into Canadian waters. Can the Minister confirm these reports? How does he intend to deal with this threat, or is he prepared to act like a wimp again?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that I have heard no such reports. If that is a tactic that France would want to exercise in such a sensitive matter as this, I would find it surprising and regrettable.

#### OVERFISHING BY FRENCH VESSELS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. In light of the fact that this agreement does not come to grips with the basic problem of French overfishing in Canadian waters, and in spite of the agreement he has, can the Minister tell the House how he intends to deal with French overfishing in Canadian waters? What specific steps will he take to ensure that this practice does not continue?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, from France's perspective the problem is that those are not Canadian waters.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** They are wrong!

**Mr. Siddon:** The French claim those waters for themselves. That very reason dictates the necessary reference to compulsory third party arbitration. There is a dispute which flows from the 1972 treaty between Canada and France. Until those boundaries are resolved once and for all I think it is premature