

Oral Questions

or by officials of the Prime Minister's office and in either case would he indicate to the House when this review will be finished and whether or not it will be tabled or made public in another way.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the forces structure review is taking place at the present time. It is in three phases. The first part deals with the tasks to be performed by the Canadian armed forces. The second part deals with the level at which these tasks will be performed and the third phase will deal with support services and costs. It will be only after we have completed the third phase that we will be able to make any public announcements or changes of direction for the forces.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would indicate if he made representations to the Minister of Finance in connection with the forthcoming budget concerning an increase in allocation of funds to meet many of the problems the Department of National Defence is now facing.

Mr. Richardson: Yes, Mr. Speaker; I make representations to my colleagues for more funds for the armed forces.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF PORT AT GROS-CACOUNA—
PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC**

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that his department and the province of Quebec are now in the process of negotiating the construction of a deepsea port at Gros-Cacouna. Can the minister tell the House whether he is confident that we will soon hear that the negotiations have been successful?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we are working on this project in conjunction with the Quebec Department of Commerce. The latter is obviously interested in the development of ports but, as a general policy on Canadian ports has yet to be formulated, it is very difficult for me to tell you in what state of mind I am at the present time. In any event, I am an optimist by nature: I always feel that good things will happen at the right time.

[English]

**REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE PROPOSED PORT OF GROS
CACOUNA WILL NOT SUPPLANT GABARUS BAY**

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in connection with the last statement I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Would he do his best to make sure that Gros Cacouna will not supplant Gabarus Bay so far as the new steel complex in Cape Breton is concerned?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Don Valley.

[Mr. Forrestall.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REASON FOR NEGOTIATING WITH IRAN FOR SALE OF
NUCLEAR REACTOR**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the fact that the Prime Minister recently rationalized the aggressive sale of Canadian reactors all over the world on the ground that we have a moral obligation to promote energy sources in less well-off countries, would the minister tell us why the government is having a discussion with Iran about a CANDU reactor when Iran happens to be one of the richest countries in the world in energy.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise of the hon. member's question and therefore I cannot deal with it.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, could the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us why Canada is negotiating with Iran with respect to the sale of a reactor to that country?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure that negotiations are taking place at the present time.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the report of the Atomic Energy Commission in relation to countries we are dealing with says we are negotiating with Iran, will the minister indicate the reason this is going on?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): It is under "I" in the book.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, sometime ago discussions were underway but they are not underway at the present time; they are suspended. Obviously, at the present time the Iranian authorities have lost interest in continuing the discussions.

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[Translation]

ENERGY**POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT IN
CANADA—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Further to his meeting yesterday with the French minister, Mr. Norbert Ségard, with regard to the possibility of building a Canadian plant for the production of enriched uranium, can the minister tell the House what steps or initiatives he will now take to better acquaint himself with all aspects of that matter and, in addition, how long does he expect this process to last, bearing in mind the fact that France will be tempted to seek another partner if the Canadian government waits too long before advising France of what it intends to do?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the next step will be a