

Oral Questions

Israel the other day and the well-known fact that these chemicals are being stockpiled in various places by various nations.

I want to ask the government whether it intends to show more leadership on this issue. Specifically, does it intend to use its seat on the Security Council of the United Nations to provoke new international momentum with respect to a total ban on chemical weapons and an international context in which nations which threaten not only to possess but to use these kinds of weapons are brought to heel?

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question is extremely timely. The statement by President Hussein in relation to chemical weapons is one that the Government of Canada condemns as being of an extremely bellicose nature in an area that is already tense and it in no way advances the cause of peace.

I would like to raise two points in answer to the hon. member's specific question. First, Canada as a nation does not export to Iraq any equipment, material, chemicals or any substances that could be used in the development of chemical weapons.

Second, in relation to the question of the Security Council, this is a point that I will bring to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs because I think the leadership role that Canada can play in this, as the hon. member suggests, is very timely and important and the Government of Canada would like to do that.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of the Environment. As the minister knows, the Department of National Defence developed and tested a number of chemical and biological weapons at Suffield, Alberta and other sites, including one in the province of Quebec.

Since some sites may still be contaminated with deadly agents such as anthrax, and since the Department of National Defence is known to cover up rather than clean up incidents such as this, will the Minister of the Environment undertake an immediate and complete search of all government records to determine and make public the location of such development and testing sites

and test these sites for contamination, particularly the anthrax site in the province of Quebec?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the hon. member that the Department of National Defence is hiring someone to go back over the records of the second world war to see if there is any further information or evidence which could confirm or deny whether field tests of anthrax, for example, took place at either Grosse Isle or at Suffield. We will certainly make whatever information that comes out of this review public.

As I am sure the member is aware, the Department of National Health and Welfare is undertaking investigations this summer in Grosse Isle to determine if there is any evidence of anthrax in that part of the country.

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TRADE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Yesterday, while the Prime Minister was musing about the benefits of a proposed trade agreement for Mexico with the United States, Canadian workers continued to lose their jobs and Canadian industry continue to move south.

For example, we have the announcement today in the riding of the Minister of Supply and Services just outside of Ottawa, that Speedo Swimwear is moving to Kentucky with 70 jobs being lost; Bright's Wines is closing down a major winery in the Surrey area of British Columbia; the International Packers plant in Saskatoon will have 60 jobs lost because of harassment under the pork restrictions in the United States.

How can we be talking of being sucked into a North American trade agreement when in fact this government provides no adjustment, no support for the Canadian victims of the existing free trade agreement? How can we do that and find ourselves putting our workers in double jeopardy, not only with the Americans but now with the Mexicans?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if I can recall the hon. member's attention to what the Prime Minister said yesterday, he did not say we were entering into discussions with the Mexicans and