

## Oral Questions

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## PLIGHT OF NICARAGUAN REFUGEES IN HONDURAS

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 31, 1982, Mr. A. H. Mayne, the first secretary of the embassy and I met in Honduras with aboriginal Nicaraguan refugees known as the Miskito people. The Miskito refugees alleged that they are victims of gross human rights violations by agents of the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. Given these and other similar allegations, will the minister announce his intention in the House today to initiate an investigation into these alleged abuses, either to disprove them or ensure that this matter is brought to international attention and justice?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, we are aware of the problems in Nicaragua concerning the Miskito Indians. One must distinguish between those who are still in Nicaragua and those who have fled to other countries. With respect to those remaining in Nicaragua, we have made representation to the Nicaraguan government recently. The head of CIDA, Mr. Massé, will shortly be visiting Nicaragua and will carry an additional message to the Nicaraguan government about this minority.

● (1500)

With respect to those who are refugees, we have been giving on a generous scale to the organizations which have been looking after the refugees. We are the third largest donor to the UNHCR for Central America refugees. We also give money to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Through those organizations we have been doing our best to help the plight of the refugees, the Miskito Indians and other refugees in Central America.

## REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Madam Speaker, the minister has heard from different parties in this House many concerns expressed regarding human rights abuses by both the extreme right and the extreme left in this region. What specific initiatives does he plan regarding an international human rights investigation of all of these allegations which are at the root of basic instability in this region? What does he plan to do to bring initiatives forward in this area?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, we do not have the right to go into another country, in Central America or wherever, to launch a human rights investigation. We have verified that many of the problems the hon. member referred to exist. With respect to the group of Indians still within Nicaragua, we have made protests to that government and will continue to do so. With respect to those outside, they are mostly under the supervision of the UNHCR. We have to accept guidance from them as to how best to help them.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## ARGENTINA—SHIPMENTS OF MILITARY MATERIALS

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, a moment or two ago the hon. member for Victoria asked a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am sure the hon. member in good faith used figures provided to him by the department, probably erroneously. It now seems the minister has a complete answer to provide, not only to the former minister of national defence but also to the members of this House and the distinguished press gallery. Can the minister now be allowed to give the figures that he has?

**Mr. McKinnon:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I cannot entertain a point of order during question period. I will gladly entertain it later.

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, any difference in statistics may be accounted for by the method of categorization used, but what we have banned is the shipment of military materials of any kind, whether they are double purpose or whatever. On that basis, the exports from Canada to Argentina in these categories were \$5.5 million in 1980, \$1.9 million in 1981, and more than a million dollars worth of permits were issued in the first quarter of this year.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## MOTION RESPECTING EASTER RECESS

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I have had consultations with my colleagues across the way. As we all know, tomorrow will be an opposition day. Provided there is no vote, and I understand the official opposition has given notice under Standing Order 58(11), I think there is unanimous consent for the following:

That tomorrow the House will sit from twelve o'clock noon until six o'clock, at six o'clock we adjourn and that the order read yesterday allowing a break at Easter still stands but *mutatis mutandis* this order will apply to the House order made yesterday.

Question period will be at 12.15 following motions under Standing Order 43.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** That is agreeable to us, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** We also agree, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Does the House give its consent to the motion proposed by the President of the Privy Council?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.