

*Oral Questions*

would mean the expulsion from Canada of ANC's chief representative here, Yusuf Saloojee?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the Prime Minister has received, as he did last year just before the summit, a letter from President Botha which sets forth some general representations regarding the situation in South Africa. I think there are two other things that it would be germane for me to say in response to the question.

First, the Prime Minister intends to meet with Mr. Oliver Tambo of the ANC some time later this summer, as do I. We believe the ANC will be part of any solution in South Africa, whatever it is, and it will be important for us to try to contribute to a peaceful solution.

Second, we hope on the occasion of the Venice Summit to find some means by which those seven industrialized countries can continue the external pressure on South Africa for change in a policy that most of us find reprehensible, and also try to find some means of maintaining a dialogue with the regime and the black population of South Africa.

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**TRADE**

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, on February 5 the Minister for International Trade praised the prosperity in our forest industry brought about by her softwood lumber agreement with the U.S. How does the Secretary of State for External Affairs explain, then, the hard statistics which have finally emerged today indicating that the Canadian share of the U.S. lumber market has fallen from 31.5 per cent in the first two months of 1986 to 28.7 per cent in the same period this year? Does this not show what a bad deal the Government made for the Canadian communities which produce softwood lumber?

● (1500)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hard statistics to which the Hon. Member pretends to want to refer in fact show that in the period from January to the end of May, this year, there was a 1.4 per cent increase in Canadian shipments of softwood lumber to the United States. Those are the hard facts.

Over-all purchasing in the United States has increased. That leads to the report which the Hon. Member read in *The Globe and Mail*.

I would suggest that if he is interested in dealing with the facts, and not simply in trying to create false impressions about the effectiveness of Canadian policy, he should do more. He should enlarge his research beyond *The Globe and Mail*, perhaps to *Saturday Night*.

**Mr. Langdon:** It is useful if the Minister indicates the full facts from the report which indicate that U.S. consumption went up 11 per cent while Canadian exports went up by only 1.4 per cent in terms of exports. Those are the facts.

## EXPORT TAX REVENUE

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Would he also confirm that revenue fell from the lumber export tax between January and February of this year, suggesting that our exports of softwood are indeed in trouble in the United States?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot make that confirmation. There were certain complications at the beginning of the administration of this tax. I will check into it, but I cannot make that confirmation today.

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATION

**Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Several months ago I brought to the attention of the RCMP 10 illegal Portuguese immigrants whom I convinced to provide evidence against those individuals who brought them into the country illegally.

These 10 individuals have taken a huge risk in deciding to provide evidence and to testify, should it become necessary, since they were promised nothing and they have nothing to gain by their action. However, they are very uneasy, since there has yet to be any decision on whether or not their evidence will be of any use.

Could the Minister assure the House that this case is continuing to receive the Department's attention?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. He has had a very substantial interest in the welfare of immigrants to our country, and I congratulate him for that.

As I have indicated on previous occasions, I follow a policy of not commenting upon individual cases because I think public comment on matters under investigation could well jeopardize or prejudice the successful conclusion of the investigations.

However, in a general way I want to reassure the House that my Department as a matter of direct policy—and from time to time I ensure that this takes place—is handling all cases presented to it in an expeditious manner.

I can certainly assure the Hon. Member that in important matters we want to ensure that the evidence is sufficient and