

*Order Paper Questions*

[English]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## AGREEMENT NOT TO SIT ON JANUARY 28 NEXT

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday the Government House Leader (Mr. Pinard) requested that we consider a request from the Conservative Party not to sit on Friday next. I promised that I would respond to that request this morning. In making my response, I am assuming that if a similar situation were to arise affecting any Party in the House, that same concession would be granted.

Assuming that, we are then quite prepared to give unanimous consent not to sit on Friday next.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Madam Speaker, the assumption outlined by the Acting House Leader for the NDP (Mr. Deans) is entirely correct.

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, we usually make decisions on such requests as the events in question arise. Therefore, we cannot make any commitment in this respect, if we are to observe parliamentary practice and our customary procedure. As far as this convention is concerned, we were the first to point out yesterday that we were willing to meet the request made by the Progressive Conservative Party. Consequently, if there is unanimous consent, the House will not be sitting next Friday. That does not mean to say that the same decision must apply to future conventions, but I can assure my Hon. colleague from the New Democratic Party that we are always very receptive, and that our decision will be made at the appropriate time, as soon as his request is received.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for the proposal that the House should not sit next Friday?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Douglas Fisher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4,231, 4,252, 4,465, 4,481, 4,482, 4,483, 4,484, 4,485, 4,486, 4,489 and 4,532.

[Text]

## TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH U.S.S.R.

Question No. 4,231—**Mr. Fretz:**

1. (a) On what date was the 1956 Trade Agreement between the U.S.S.R. and Canada extended and for how long (b) what areas of trade does the Agreement

cover (c) does the Agreement permit the transfer of science and technology and, if so (i) in what fields or areas (ii) under what conditions or restrictions and is the transfer free of charge, barter or payments?

2. (a) What fields or areas does the Agreement on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Co-operation of 1976 cover (b) was the Agreement extended?

3. On what date does the Friendship Agreement of 1971 expire and are there discussions taking place to extend it?

4. Were projects financed by the Export Development Corporation or another Department or Development Agency to export U.S.S.R. goods or services to Canada and other countries and, if so (a) what were the projects (b) which other countries were involved?

5. Did the Government or any departmental officials engage in any discussions or exchanges with the U.S.S.R. on building a Lada automobile plant in Canada?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** 1. (a) A protocol to renew the 1956 Trade Agreement between Canada and the U.S.S.R. was signed on January 21, 1982. The extension of the Agreement is for a period of five years (April 19, 1981 to April 18, 1986).

(b) The Agreement provides Canada with a basic juridical and commercial framework which is necessary to manage our trade relations with the U.S.S.R. The most important feature of the 1956 Agreement was the exchange of Most-Favorite Nation treatment.

(c) The 1956 Agreement does not contain any reference to transfers of science and technology.

2. (a) The 1976 Long-term Agreement to facilitate Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical co-operation seeks expansion and diversification of trade in goods and services and of scientific and industrial co-operation in fields of common interest; joint efforts in the implementation of projects and of industrial co-operation between Canadian firms and Soviet enterprises; joint efforts in the construction and supply of equipment and services for industrial facilities in third countries.

(b) The Agreement was done on July 14, 1976, and is valid for a period of ten years.

3. The Government of Canada does not have a Friendship Agreement with the U.S.S.R. On May 19, 1971 the Governments of Canada and the Soviet Union signed a Protocol on Consultations which provides a framework for the development of a dialogue with the U.S.S.R. on issues of mutual interest or international importance. The Protocol has no expiry date. The Protocol on Consultations is a very different intergovernmental mechanism with a different purpose than the largely symbolic Treaties of Friendship which the Soviet Government has negotiated for political reasons with ideologically like-minded developing countries. For example, unlike some standard Soviet Friendship Agreements with other countries, the Protocol on Consultations makes no reference to