

a security conference for Africa, and if Canada will not raise its voice at the Security Council of the United Nations, where we are still a member, what steps will Canada take to get Cuba out of Africa?

● (1427)

Mr. Clark: Tell us about the EDC.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, in the first place, if we are going to have this kind of discussion, I am delighted to participate. But I ask the hon. member to get the facts of the matter straight. None of the members in the NATO discussions or at the United Nations has made any direct suggestion or claim that there are, indeed, Cubans involved in the Zaire situation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: Let me add in that connection that Canada made comments both in the NATO context and previously, indicating that we clearly and unmistakably deplore the involvement of both the Soviet Union and Cuba anywhere in Africa. That is on the record of this House as well as elsewhere.

The hon. member asks what we can do to get Cuba or any other foreign involvement out of Africa. With regard to Cuban involvement or any other country seeking the same kinds of incursions into Africa, we will, of course, support any initiatives which are taken within the Security Council or within the General Assembly. I come back to the point that to this moment, in any event, neither the United States nor any other country has put forward any proposals which could be considered in that forum. However, we will be quite prepared to do so and to support vigorously and without qualification a demand that Cuba get out of Africa now, without any further delay.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: Why don't you be a leader and take the initiative?

Mr. Paproski: Send them a couple of DC-8s.

Mr. Roche: We will continue this next week.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MINISTER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister on a very different subject. Considering that Donald Macdonald, former minister of finance and a former minister of national defence, has been

elected to the board of directors of the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, which corporation is one of the front-runners for the \$2.3 billion fighter aircraft contract with the federal government, would the Prime Minister not agree that this action violates the principle of his own guidelines which were tabled in the House in December of 1976 and which state, in part, that a former government official should not take a position in the private sector in which he would be giving advice for commercial purposes on programs or policies of his former department?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the position of Mr. Macdonald, the former minister of finance in this government, is one which he has taken after studying the guidelines and making sure that he did adhere to them. We all know that Mr. Macdonald is an honest and scrupulous person. He did give some consideration to his position as a former minister, and I can state that the guidelines which, as the hon. member says, were tabled in this House in December of 1976, along with a letter which I wrote to ministers explaining what their duty was, have not been contravened in any way, despite what the Leader of the New Democratic Party says.

The guidelines explain a position which has to be adhered to by former officials and ministers who have privileged knowledge, during a period of one year and during a period of two years, in relation to former portfolios. I know of no contact between the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation and the Department of Finance. If the hon. member has any information to the contrary, I wish he would make it public.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I took care in my question to say that in my understanding of the guidelines, what was involved in this particular case was a violation of the principle or spirit, and I want to make it clear that I am not questioning Mr. Macdonald's personal integrity. The Prime Minister knows, and we all know, that a conflict of interest position has nothing to do with the individual integrity of a person.

● (1432)

The former minister of finance has himself publicly admitted that as a member of the cabinet he was involved in the discussion of the question of the purchase of fighter aircraft—which can only pertain, I think, to a future major purchase—on matters “dealing with guidance to bidders”. Since Mr. Macdonald has acknowledged that as minister of finance he was involved in such negotiations, and since the corporation has submitted a bid, now that he is a member of the board of directors, surely the Prime Minister would admit that he is in a preferred position to help the corporation get a contract with the federal government.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, he is not in a preferred position, nor will his corporation be in a preferred position. I know the leader of the NDP understands the importance of what he calls the principles or the spirit of the guidelines. They were enunciated in order to give some guidance to members of any government after they had left the