

Oral Questions

● (1130)

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): The hon. gentleman, again, repeats something notwithstanding the fact that I am standing here saying the opposite. He charges us with waiting until August. That is not true. He heard me answer his Leader. He heard me answer the Leader of the New Democratic Party that we are not waiting for August.

The Prime Minister is very much in the process of communicating with other members of the Commonwealth of Nations to ensure that we get the broadest possible support for the actions Canada has already taken and, if necessary, further actions to end the evil system that exists in South Africa.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS**SALT II—ACHIEVEMENT OF ENHANCED ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT**

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. With reference to SALT II in the reply he gave a moment ago he said that the objective of the United States Government was to achieve an enhanced arms limitation agreement. Can the Deputy Prime Minister explain, since I assume he has been talking to Vice-President Bush about this, how you can achieve an enhanced arms limitation agreement when you are planning to breach the limits of an existing agreement, SALT II? How can you do that? Is that not totally inconsistent?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): It is totally inconsistent to me that one can achieve an enhanced arms limitation agreement unilaterally. One cannot achieve an arms limitation agreement when it is being constantly breached by the other party to that arms limitation agreement.

Surely what we would all desire to see is both sides agree to an enhanced arms limitation agreement. I have no doubt that that is the ultimate objective of the United States. I do have some doubts, in view of the existing breaches of that agreement by the Soviet Union, that they may not be genuine in achieving an enhanced arms limitation agreement.

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said that they are constantly breaching it on the Soviet side, but has never been able to give an example. The examples he gave the other day did not relate to SALT II.

If, in fact, the United States Government determines to breach the limits established under SALT II, and, particularly, in relation to air launch Cruise missiles, will this Government

say now to the United States it will not be complicit in such a breach and will, therefore, not continue with the testing of the air launch Cruise missile?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): The honourable lady makes a statement that is not accurate when she states to the House that I have failed to give examples of breaches by the Soviet Union of SALT II. There are clear breaches in the bringing on by the Soviets of the SS-25 missile. That is a clear breach. A clear breach is the construction of the Krasnoyarsk radar, that is a clear breach of SALT II. It is a clear breach of SALT II to encrypted telemetry, which the Soviets are doing. So those are three clear breaches.

If those are brought onside and the Soviet Union demonstrates that it intends to honour the provisions of SALT II, surely that is the desirable situation and would lead to more greatly enhanced arms limitation agreements that can be achieved with some confidence that they are going to be adhered to by both sides.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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*[Translation]***AIRPORTS****REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF FUNDS DESTINED FOR CERTAIN AIRPORTS**

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport.

Could he perhaps explain to the House why 15 per cent of his current budget and 40 per cent of next year's budget for airports in Quebec will be spent in the riding of Manicouagan? And why he is going to spend more this year on the Chevery airport than on Dorval and Mirabel altogether?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, what really is at issue here is that we are overcoming years and years of neglect in that region. Many of the initiatives to which the Hon. Member has referred were discussed back in 1983, and again in 1984, and when this Government assumed office we decided to act and give the residents of Manicouagan a first-class aviation system to enhance safety and to enhance service in that region. Why would the Member want to discriminate against the people of Manicouagan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.