

*Oral Questions*

relevant. I have been prepared to meet with Mrs. Shcharansky, the Shcharansky family or any of the Jewish federations who wanted to meet with me or talk with me at any time. So no information has been withheld. In relation to the specific response from the Soviet Union to the offer of landed immigrant status, to my knowledge at this point in time there has not been an official response.

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[Translation]

**SHIPBUILDING****REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR RENOVATION AND CONVERSION OF SHIPS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, the first part of my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister and the second part to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the alarming situation that has existed in the Lauzon shipyards since, about a year ago now, 2,000 workers were laid off, and in view of the many representations made to the caucus by the union, municipal councils, chambers of commerce and other organizations of the riding of Lévis, does the government intend soon to meet the requests for new credits to be earmarked for new programs for repairing and renovating the ships of the Canadian navy, as previously announced by the Department of National Defence?

I should also like the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to tell us why the decision is being delayed—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Lévis for having brought up the matter yesterday at the caucus and having so allowed the government, as early as today—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I know this matter does not interest the Progressive Conservative Party in the least, but I can give the hon. member the answer he seeks.

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[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF SOVIET NATIONALS WISHING TO EMIGRATE FROM U.S.S.R.**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Some time ago representations were made to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs by representatives of various ethnic groups, including Ukrainian, Polish, Latvian,

[Mr. Cafik.]

Estonian and Jewish groups, urging the government to make representations to the government of the Soviet Union to permit immigration of Soviet citizens who have committed no crime and wish to leave that country, especially citizens of the Soviet Union who have relatives in Canada.

Since whatever representations were made on this matter at the Belgrade conference have failed, would the Prime Minister now make public representations to the Soviet president, Mr. Brezhnev, urging him to facilitate the movement of such Soviet citizens to Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. member asks the question in this way. He knows the government has made many representations to Soviet authorities to this effect. I have reported to the House that I have raised the question twice, personally, in meetings with the prime minister of the Soviet Union and again with the ambassador. I believe it is a matter of record that there has been substantial improvement in the movement of Jewish Soviet citizens out of the Soviet Union. Indeed, in the area of reunification of families, there has been substantial progress. I do not have the statistics at hand. I am surprised the hon. member implies by his question that we have not obtained results. We have, and so have other western countries.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. No one questions that there has been some progress. At the same time, there are still many Jewish dissidents who have not been permitted to leave. The Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society of Toronto has a list of some 400 families who are still attempting to get relatives out of the Soviet Union. Despite the progress which has been made, they are the ones who would like the Prime Minister to make another public appeal, and not just the usual diplomatic appeal; they feel that is not enough and what is required is an open, public appeal to the president of the Soviet Union. Will the Prime Minister give consideration to making the type of public appeal which these groups are requesting?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that a public appeal is all they can get out of the opposition parties. Out of the government, they have got results—which is preferable.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**ENERGY****INTENTIONS OF AECL RESPECTING EISENBERG CONTRACT**

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources: it concerns the statement of the chairman of Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. to the effect that there is no binding commitment that Mr. Eisenberg's firm would be used again. In view