

*Oral Questions*

them in the statements which have been issued by us and with our NATO allies. We have made many representations to them on the same subject in the last year.

We have indeed communicated with the Polish government. We have met the Polish ambassador here, and I intend to see him again later today. We have asked the Polish government to exercise restraint. That is the message which I will be giving him again today when I see him.

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

## COMMUNICATION WITH CANADIAN EMBASSY

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Secretary of State for External Affairs could tell the House whether or not, in addition to urging restraint on the Polish government, we have indicated that we deplore the actions that were taken over the weekend, or whether we have indicated any view with regard to that matter at all? Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs advise us whether we now have full communication with our embassy in Poland? Is the government certain that all Canadian citizens in Poland are safe and in good hands? Or, if we do not have good communications with our embassy, how can the government tell whether they are or are not safe and in good hands?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, we have had some communication through indirect means with our embassy in Poland since the crisis began, enough to learn that, as far as the embassy is concerned, all Canadians are safe. In fact the Polish government, in their *démarches* both in Warsaw and here, indicated that there would be no interference with foreigners except with respect to their travel within Poland. It is my intention today to express to the Polish ambassador our concerns and disapproval of these kinds of actions which have been taken.

## COMMODITY CREDIT SALES

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Madam Speaker, in connection with Canadian citizens travelling in Poland, there are many concerned people who have relatives in Poland who are worried about the situation. The minister's answer does not seem to meet their concerns. As far as we are aware, we do not have good communication with the embassy. Will the minister tell the House what is being done to ensure that we do have full communication with our embassy in the shortest possible time so that one can be sure?

Will he tell the House whether the government has given any consideration to taking the same kind of action as the U.S. has? The minister will be aware that the United States has suspended all food aid to Poland until the situation is reassessed. Are we considering reassessing our present credit sales for grain, and our present arrangements with respect to the fishery, for example, or is that kind of action ruled out?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, our communications have been cut,

we believe, by the Polish government. On both occasions we have made strong representations to the Polish government. I also intend to ask today for the restoration of communications, so that we will be able to get the answer to the kind of questions that my hon. friend poses.

With respect to the U.S. action on food aid, I should make it clear to the House that we do not have surplus supplies of food, such as some other countries, and that we do not have food aid, as such, to Poland. What we have are long-term grain contracts which we finance on concessional terms. We have not made any decision at the present time, given the absence of knowledge about the situation, to take any action with respect to those contracts. In any event there will be lots of time between now and the time of delivery of our grain to consider fully any steps that should be taken on our side.

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## AVIATION INDUSTRY

## CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ORION LONG RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. On December 8 the minister approved a message to Washington, expressing concern about the U.S. Navy interruption of the Lockheed P-3 Orion program. The minister said that Canada was led to believe that the Orion program would continue through the 1980s and our offset share of the LRPA contract included Orion airframe and systems which would create employment for 2,000 people through the 1980s. Will the minister consider whether there has been a violation of this contract and, if so, what action does the government intend to take about it?

● (1420)

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, my hon. friend is talking about a proposal within the United States administration to have a five-year hiatus on the P-3 Orion program. I understand the final decision has not yet been taken. That is why I immediately took action to bring our concerns to the attention of the U.S. Secretary of Defense about the possible implications for Canadian industry of the postponement of the program. As I said, a final decision by the U.S. authorities has not yet been taken. At the same time our agreement with respect of offsets is with the Lockheed corporation. I understand that Lockheed has already acknowledged to our officials its ongoing contractual obligation. Bearing in mind that the contract runs to 1995, obviously we expect Lockheed, in any event, to carry out these obligations.

**Mr. McKinnon:** There are implications other than to industry; there is a defence implication.