

any opposition to tankers going down on the high seas to California. This is a matter for the United States to decide and it does not directly involve our interests. We did point out that a refinery located near Seattle could obtain oil from existing pipelines.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he has received from Secretary Rogers, either at that time or since, any encouragement that the United States government would be prepared to route these tankers to Seattle or points south rather than going to Cherry Point which would take them through the Strait of Juan de Fuca?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, when I met with Secretary Rogers he said he would like to have further discussions. It is my understanding that those discussions are proceeding today.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated on June 14 that further discussions would be held. Do I take it from the minister's statement that discussions are now under way and, if so, may I ask who is representing Canada at these discussions and what point of view our representatives will be putting forward, particularly with reference to the question I have asked about routing the tankers to ports south of Cherry Point?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered the question previously. As I say, I believe the discussions which were forecast at my meeting with Secretary Rogers are opening today. At that time Secretary Rogers said he thought that perhaps we ought to look not only at the problem of moving tankers through narrow waters on the western side of North America but also at similar problems arising on the Atlantic side where tankers serving Canadian ports move through relatively narrow waters. I said I had no objection to having the discussions take on this form if that was agreeable to the United States. The discussions that we forecast at that time I believe are opening today. I could not be absolutely sure it is today but it is my understanding it was to be early this week. Our representatives will be officials of the Department of External Affairs and others who may be co-opted for the purpose.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED SHIPMENT OF CANADIAN ARMS TO PAKISTAN

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Yesterday, in replying to my question the minister said that no export permits for arms have been issued for some time now because of the situation in Pakistan. Well, *The Padma* was berthed yesterday in Montreal and some officials went there to see what was going on.

Does the minister have any new information today on the subject? Is he in a position to affirm that no Canadian arms have been shipped or loaded on the *Padma*?

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is the purpose of government policy. Instructions have been issued that no militarily sensitive items are to be loaded aboard the *Padma* from Canada.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has he decided on an issue with which he believes he can con the Canadian people into believing he would be justified in calling a general election next fall?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Now that Tom Kent has been appointed to the position of president of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, more or less confirming my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion a few days ago, can the Prime Minister advise when the position of chairman of the board may be filled?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Later on, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Muir: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Prime Minister for his usual kindness and courtesy. May I express to the Prime Minister a sincere thank you for listening to the views of the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond and myself.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the right hon. gentleman. I wondered whether the hon. member was rising for the purpose of expressing thanks or for the purpose of asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Muir: I do have a supplementary. I usually have to lay a little background for the right hon. gentleman, but I do want to thank him for listening to our views.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has already done that. He has been recognized for the purpose of asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Muir: Okay. May I ask the right hon. gentleman how soon a policy statement will be made with regard to the future of coal mining in Cape Breton and may I express—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member can ask supplementary questions but not add supplementary expressions. If the hon. member has asked the question—

Mr. Muir: I have not finished the supplementary.