

expressed such a concern, namely Mr. Stanfield, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Minister of State for International Trade. He stated:

Trade negotiations with the Arab countries are seriously affected.

And he added on Wednesday:

—we hope that the whole matter will be clarified shortly.

In view of the foregoing, and with a view to protecting our foreign trade as always, I ask once again whether the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs could not dissociate the problem of moving the Canadian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem from the general government policy review on the Middle East. It seems to me that such a dissociation is possible, and I strongly urge that this be done as soon as possible, as the Minister of State for International Trade suggested, in the interest of our foreign trade.

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to send the hon. member a copy of the terms of reference which were handed to Mr. Stanfield at the outset of his mission, which include a broad look at the relations that Canada has with the Middle East and include, of course, the question that was put there in the first place and which the hon. member mentioned, that of the move of the embassy.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: A short supplementary.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE DECISION
CONCERNING MOVE OF EMBASSY

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am of course quite aware of this document, but it states very clearly:

[English]

We are now not working to deadlines.

[Translation]

My question is this: How long shall we have to wait before knowing the government's decision on a matter which is obviously quite urgent? What is it that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs want to know that they do not know already? They know quite well that foreign trade is seriously affected since the minister confirmed this recently. They are also well aware that Canadians do not agree with this policy. What more does the government want to know?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will be aware that

Oral Questions

Mr. Stanfield has already completed a good part of the study he has undertaken. It is his intention to visit with provincial ministers across the country in order to ascertain their point of view and to visit as well the countries of North Africa.

An hon. Member: Will he visit the Middle East?

Miss MacDonald: In that connection, he intends to have his study completed before the end of the year and to report to the government at the beginning of the new year.

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS

STRENGTH OF LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. First, I want to welcome the commitment of the government to introduce the international economic boycott legislation early in 1980, especially in view of the government's failure to honour certain other commitments.

I want to ask the Prime Minister whether the hon. member for Ottawa West was stating government policy when he assured us all yesterday that it would not be a mild piece of legislation that was going to be introduced.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had the pleasure of reading the speech made by the hon. member for Ottawa West. I read his speeches regularly and attentively and look forward to having the opportunity to do so this weekend. But this government does not introduce mild pieces of legislation.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, if the government knows that the legislation will not be mild, why does it claim to be waiting for the Stanfield report to make up its mind about what legislation to introduce? If it does know that it intends to introduce effective legislation, why does it not do that now and thus relieve the uncertainty to which my colleague referred?

Mr. Clark: We intend to introduce legislation which, while not mild, is informed.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S INTERVENTION IN CASES OF FOREIGN DISSIDENTS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is about the case of the Bulgarian dissident which I raised under Standing Order 43 yesterday and which did not receive unanimous consent from the opposite side of the House.

Would the minister please tell the House why she agreed to intervene in the case of Ida Nudel, a Soviet dissident, yet refused to intervene in the case of a Bulgarian dissident, Dimitar Kolev, whose son is a Canadian citizen?