



Question Period in the Senate

Oral Questions

A daily opportunity for Senators to question the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Honourable Senator Carstairs) on public issues.

Tuesday to Thursday: 2:45 - 3:15 pm

- PCO is responsible for preparing the Leader of the Government in the Senate for QP.
- If an oral question cannot be answered immediately, the Leader of the Government in the Senate may take the question as notice. Responsible Departments will be asked to prepare a response to the question.

Example Question Posed during Question Period

June 27, 2000 Summit of the Americas 2000-01-Invitation to President of Cuba

Hon. Marcel Prud'homme: Honourable senators, some time ago, I asked the minister whether the Government of Canada was contemplating taking the initiative of recognizing North Korea. I have not yet had a response and I would like to have one shortly.

My question of today relates to a major event. As we know, the Summit of the Americas will be held in the historic French city of Quebec in the spring of 2001. I understand, and it is regrettable if true, that the host government, that is Canada, has not yet seen fit to extend an invitation to the President of Cuba, Fidel Castro. Would the minister be so kind as to indicate to his colleague that a number of senators are certainly of the opinion that President Castro should be invited to this very important summit and that it would be unthinkable for him not to be invited? It is the responsibility of the host country to issue invitations. Since Canada is that country, it is up to Canada to issue the invitation to President Castro.

There is a link between my two questions, since they both relate to international policy. When are we going to cease following others and when are we going instead to take the initiative of recognizing North Korea - and on this I would appreciate a response - and, second, could the minister possibly pass on this urgent message relating to this invitation to the Summit of the Americas to be held in Quebec City in 2001, a summit for which the Prime Minister of Canada will be the official host?

Hon. J. Bernard Boudreau (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I shall transmit that request and, indeed, the question that accompanies it with