

Oral Questions

China, have claimed income tax exemptions, according to the law before 1982, for money sent to their aged parents back home. They are now being reassessed for 1981 with the demand that they prove that their parents have no means of support, or pay the exempted amount for 1981.

The Minister also knows that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to get documentation from places like China which would be satisfactory to Revenue Canada, and that even many who have obtained documents from China, duly certified and translated, have been turned down by Revenue Canada. In view of the fact that some of his officials have undertaken to review some of these cases, will the Minister direct his officials to hold off from any enforcement action for the collection of these moneys? Will he also give consideration to accepting a statutory declaration in cases where it is impossible to get documentation from overseas?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussi eres (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, before making such a commitment to the Hon. Member and the House, I would have to examine the provisions of the Act voted by Parliament to determine whether the Minister has this discretion. However, I can assure him that since he and other Members have already expressed their concerns on this matter, I shall pay particular attention to his representations.

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[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS**CHILE—PLIGHT OF PEOPLE SEIZED BY POLICE**

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I will direct my question to the Minister of State for External Relations. In light of the recommendations of the parliamentary committee on Canada's relations with Latin America, will the Government of Canada protest, in the strongest possible terms, the recent seizure by the Chilean police of 1,000 people in pre-dawn raids, and the subsequent incarceration of many of them? Will the Government also bring pressure on the Pinochet Government, with which the Canadian Government has close trade and investment links, to give out a complete list of those detained, in order to make sure they will come before competent courts, or be released? Will the Government also urge that they not be tortured while in prison?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (External Relations)): Madam Speaker, the Government is especially

concerned about the recent developments in Chile and the apparent resurgence of human rights violations in that country.

As recently as yesterday, our embassy in Santiago was instructed to make representations to the Chilean Government expressing our great concern about the situation.

As the Hon. Member knows, the report of Amnesty International was published yesterday. We received a copy that same day, but I am in no position to comment on it at the moment.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**AIRCRAFT OVERHAUL—ALLOCATION OF WORK**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. His Department's Boeing 707s are due for overhaul early in 1984. Has the Minister made any decision on where those planes will be overhauled? Is he keeping in mind that the largest lay-off of Air Canada machinists is going to take place in Winnipeg, and will he give top priority to Winnipeg for the 707 overhaul?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, it is true that the Boeing 707 fleet of the Department of National Defence is due for an overhaul, but I do not have any information today as to when. I do not think it should be before two years time in any case. The planes are still in good shape, but the overhaul is on the priority list and we will see when and where they will be done. I do not know at this stage if it will be under public tender or through negotiations with the contractor.

STARTING DATE

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, I would like to remind the Minister that the expertise is in Winnipeg because they have overhauled these 707s before. In light of the fact these machinists are going to be laid off this September, will the Minister check and provide me with an answer on whether the overhaul could start ahead of time, say sometime this Fall, to avoid these lay-offs in Winnipeg?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, the efficiency and competence of the machinists in Winnipeg are well known. It is a good shop, and I will supply the Hon. Member with some detail of when, how, and what procedure we will follow when the overhaul comes.