

MINISTER'S USE OF TERM "NATIONAL SECURITY"

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): On that point, Mr. Speaker, can the Solicitor General tell us this—his answer would be useful in the context of parliamentary discussion: when he uses the term "national security", as he does from time to time in our debates, is he using the term in a jurisdictional or legal sense or merely as a descriptive phrase? Is he relating it to any part of the British North America Act?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): When we are talking about national security in this House I take a great deal of guidance from what was decided upon by parliament itself as described in Section 16 of the Official Secrets Act, 1974. This set out what the term "subversive activities" is meant to convey in Canada. The mandate of the RCMP Security Service has been derived almost totally from the definition given by parliament of that term in 1974.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS FOR NORTHERN AREA

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): My question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It arises from the statement made by the hon. gentleman's parliamentary secretary on Friday when he told the first Alberta NWT mining industry forum, in effect, that the days of open handed government assistance to the private sector of the northern economy are over and that Ottawa will consider supporting business ventures which meet the government's social and economic goals, apparently on a joint venture basis. My question is this: is the minister prepared to make a statement on motions setting out in detail the government's social and economic goals and, further, can he tell us whether it is government policy to scrap traditional incentives in favour of state interference?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): On the last point, Mr. Speaker, the answer is, no. As to the more general question about our social and economic goals, these have been outlined by myself in meetings with the Chamber of Mines in Yellowknife and in Whitehorse. They have been outlined, as well, by predecessors of mine. It will not come as any great surprise to the hon. member that when we are considering economic development in the north we take into account not only the jobs which can be created but the number which can be made available to the native people, the degree to which a mining venture, for example, can introduce as part of its expansion plans a training program so that there might be full involvement on the part of the native people wherever mines are located near their communities. Those are some of the social and economic objectives but if the hon. member needs a more elaborate statement I would be pleased to provide it. I shall be saying

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something more about this subject when I speak in Yellowknife in January.

An hon. Member: We will all go up there!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IMPRISONMENT IN SOVIET UNION OF ANATOLY SHARANSKY—EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. What position is the federal government prepared to take toward the plight of the Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky who attempted within the Soviet Union to monitor compliance with the Helsinki Agreement and who has been seized and held for months in prison in Moscow without trial, without charges even being laid and without any contact with his family?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government at the Conference in Belgrade has been pressing other countries for the acceptance of the principles of human rights which are involved in this particular case, namely, freedom to emigrate and the freedom of an individual to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki final act which I understand was the activity engaged in by Mr. Shcharansky. We have not yet made direct representations to the Soviet Union about this particular case, although the apparent denial of human rights concerns us a great deal.

● (1452)

However, I understand a meeting has been arranged between the government and Mr. Shcharansky's relatives in Canada. From that meeting it may be possible to establish a basis to make direct representations to the Soviet Union. In the meantime, however, we are pressing forward at Belgrade the principles of human rights that are involved in this particular case.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DISPUTE INVOLVING B.C. TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the disruption of telephone service in British Columbia as a result of a labour dispute involving B.C. Telephone and its employees. It is therefore addressed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the unions concerned are asking for government intervention, the lead editorial in this morning's *Vancouver Province* asks for the same thing and the spokesman for our party is today speaking with both sides in this dispute, can the minister say what role he sees for himself and the government at this juncture to