

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I was not responsible for the department at that time. I shall therefore consult the files and report to the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the fourth, fifth or sixth supplementary to the original question. We should try to move on. The hon. member will be recognized and then the hon. member for Selkirk.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, may I direct one final supplementary to the Minister of National Defence. How will cancellation of the CF-5 production licence affect Canada's defence plans?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it will not affect them in any way.

CF-5 AIRCRAFT—EFFECT OF NORTHROP LAWSUIT ON PLANS TO CHANGE ROLE FROM FIGHTER TO TRAINER

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the present situation going to result in an alteration of Department of National Defence plans to change the role of the CF-5 from that of a fighter aircraft to that of a trainer?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker.

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IMMIGRATION

CHILEAN REFUGEES—STEPS TO EXPEDITE MEDICAL AND BACKGROUND CHECKS OF THOSE WISHING TO COME TO CANADA

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration apropos the statement he made a few moments ago. What steps has he taken or does he contemplate to expedite the medical and background checks of those who have applied to come to Canada from Chile, either directly or indirectly?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, with regard to medical checks the problem, quite frankly, has been that some of the applicants who have been processed in other ways and have been asked to come forward to complete the whole processing, by virtue of undergoing medical checks have chosen not to do so. We are equipped to handle these medical checks very quickly indeed and are keen to do so. With regard to background checks, in some cases these take a little longer. We are taking special measures and we have augmented our staff down there to accelerate this process as well, although we want to exercise the necessary thoroughness in that process.

Oral Questions

Mr. Brewin: I referred to the fact that at one stage, at any rate, the military government of Chile said they were fixing a deadline of December 31 for some, if not all, refugees who sought to leave the country. The minister indicated that was no longer the case. Can he tell us what the situation now is?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the accurate information we are getting is that the military government of Chile had indicated to all embassies in Chile that people in the embassy itself who were there as a safe haven had to be prepared to leave by December 11, and all diplomatic posts were instructed to submit lists of people in their care to the military government of Chile with regard to applications for safe conduct. Our embassy, which now contains some 55 people, submitted its list on December 10 with applications for safe conduct, and we have not had a response from the government of Chile. We anticipate that the response will come within two weeks from that period. We have, I might say, booked 80 seats on a Canadian Pacific Airlines flight on December 31 in anticipation of a possible need to get these people out of Chile. However, we cannot take them out until the government of Chile gives us safe conducts for them.

CHILEAN REFUGEES—REQUEST FOR NATIONALITY OF APPLICANTS TO COME TO CANADA AND NUMBERS SEEKING TEMPORARY HAVEN OR PERMANENT STATUS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration concerning the statement he made today. Can the minister break down the nationality of the approximately 1,400 applicants whose applications have been received by the department to date?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I had that information with my statement but I sent it to *Hansard* and I regret that I do not have the actual breakdown. I will get it for the hon. member and make sure that he has the information very quickly.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, may I ask another supplementary in the same vein. While the minister is furnishing that information, would he also indicate what numbers have indicated a desire to come to Canada as a temporary haven and how many have applied to come to Canada to receive landed immigrant status and eventually Canadian citizenship?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the bulk of the applications to which I referred are applications for permanent residence, that is, for landed immigrant status. There are some people, particularly in the Canadian embassy, who do not wish to do so. For instance, of the 55 people in the embassy in Santiago only 29 have indicated a desire to come to Canada. The rest are seeking haven somewhere else, and that is the situation we are exploring. Among the rest there is a variation in numbers, particularly among those who are in camps outside Chile. Those we do not consider to carry the same degree of urgency, in the sense that they are not in Chile itself and they are, contrary to other