

government. We wanted to ensure that those safeguards were met. I do not think there was any misunderstanding on the part of the Argentineans on that account.

I think all of these considerations bore on their final decision. I, for one, said publicly that I was disappointed that we had not been granted the contract. It is something that is regrettable, but I can assure you that the decision on their part was a complex one and I do not think we can tie it into any one specific thing. It is certainly an area, in terms of the future sales of nuclear technology around the world, that is under very active consideration right now.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CURTAILMENT OF FOREIGN AID

Senator Haidasz: I have a supplementary question which I think would be better answered by the Minister of State for the Canadian International Development Agency.

Would the minister inform the chamber what countries would have their foreign aid cut off or curtailed in consequence of the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that their domestic and foreign policies are abhorrent to Canada's views on civil liberties and human rights?

[Translation]

Senator Asselin: A joint Senate and Commons committee might be set up to review Canada's foreign affairs and foreign aid policy. At that time, all the relevant information will be given and a decision will be made regarding the proceedings and the findings of the committee.

[English]

Senator van Roggen: Is the minister announcing another joint committee not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne yesterday?

[Translation]

Senator Asselin: Honourable senators, I am not announcing that a new committee is being established. I am merely saying that we are considering setting up a joint Senate and Commons committee to study Canada's foreign affairs and foreign aid policy.

[English]

Senator van Roggen: My apologies. I understood the minister to say that there would be such a committee.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MEETING OF UNALIGNED NATIONS, HAVANA, CUBA— REFERENCES TO CANADA

Senator Bird: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate which I hope he will answer on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In light of the recent remarks made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs about the ingratitude of Pakistan,

would the Leader of the Government supply the Senate with a transcription of every reference to Canada that was made at the meeting of unaligned nations in Havana, Cuba?

Senator Flynn: I will try to supply the honourable senator with that information.

SPEECHES OF MINISTER AT UNITED NATIONS AND EMPIRE CLUB, TORONTO

Senator Bird: I have a supplementary question. Recent speeches made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs at the United Nations and at the Empire Club in Toronto were reported. However, we have not received them here in full. Could you supply us with transcriptions of the words uttered; not what was in the written text?

Senator Flynn: I am surprised that the text of the speeches has not been distributed. However, I certainly will obtain one for Senator Bird.

THE ECONOMY

EFFECT OF INCREASE IN BANK RATE AND OIL PRICE ON COMPETITIVE POSITION OF EXPORTERS

Senator Bosa: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the substantial increase in the interest rate announced yesterday, and in view of the stated government policy that there will be a rapid increase in the price of oil to the level of that in international markets, which is bound to increase the cost of production, what measures is the minister proposing to take to maintain the competitive position of our exporters?

Senator de Cotret: First of all, I should like to state that we have never talked about the actual speed at which the price of domestic crude would approach world prices. I should like to emphasize that we have talked about the domestic price of energy over time approaching world prices. The Minister of Energy, and for that matter the Prime Minister, have both made it very clear that in order to protect our competitive position in world markets, the domestic price of crude would not be allowed to surpass the price of crude in the U.S., the Chicago price, and would not be allowed to get to the actual level of world prices. In other words, we would maintain a differential which would be in the interest of the Canadian competitive position abroad.

Senator Olson: I have a supplementary question. Would the minister tell us whether it is government policy to narrow the gap between the domestic price and the international price, or allow it to widen as happened in 1979.

Senator de Cotret: Once again, as you well know, the specific question of oil pricing and the schedule for further increases in oil pricing is one that is under active discussion between the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Energy, the Prime Minister and their provincial counterparts. It is not our intention, however, to allow the gap to widen. It is our stated position that we feel that gradually over time the domestic