

Oral Questions

the Crow legislation is passed by the House, I will be very interested and eager to introduce the Bill—

Mr. McDermid: Blackmail.

Mr. Lalonde: —dealing with taxation, at the first opportunity.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**U.S.S.R.—CONDEMNATION FOR SHOOTING DOWN KOREAN AIRLINER—CANADIAN POSITION AT UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, I have a question to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs with regard to the opening of the General Session of the United Nations this afternoon. Would he indicate to the House his commitment that he will use his speaking opportunity next week to express the views of the Parliament of Canada with regard to KAL Flight 007, as unanimously adopted by this House? Further, would he indicate whether the Government has any plan or strategy to bring the entire matter surrounding the murder of those passengers before the Assembly for resolution?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I intend, of course, to deal with the question of the airliner in my address at the United Nations. I will certainly consider his suggestion that I use as much of the resolution as was unanimously adopted by Parliament in the expression of those views. No decision has been taken as to whether it would be appropriate at this stage to make an attempt to put this particular item on the agenda of the General Assembly. Discussions are going on with other countries as to whether this would be an effective step to take at the present time.

REQUEST FOR STRONG CANADIAN REPRESENTATION

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question relates to the last part of the Minister's answer. Surely the Minister would admit that, given Canada's involvement in trying to persuade the Security Council to deal with the matter, which the Soviets vetoed, Canada certainly has an obligation—if it does not believe the Soviet Union is in fact stonewalling on the issue, as many people do—to press forward as far and as hard as possible to persuade the United Nations to deal with a matter of such international importance and of such repugnance to all citizens of the world?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): I have no difficulty with the comment made by the Hon. Member. I think we all share the repugnance. We were among those who asked that the matter be dealt with by the Security Council. The conclusion of the Security Council was unfortunately vetoed by the

Soviet representative. Now there is a question as to whether the insertion of this particular item on the agenda of the General Assembly would make an effective contribution to the situation, particularly in light of the fact that the matter is presently being dealt with and will be dealt with in Montreal at the General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

There is no difference between us as to the depth of our repugnance. It is a question as to what is the most effective step that could be taken in present circumstances.

USE OF GANDER AIRPORT BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs whose Department has indicated that it is reviewing the situation with respect to the landings of Soviet aircraft at Gander Airport. Would the Minister indicate whether his Department is in a position to recommend the closing of Gander to further Aeroflot flights and, second, has it taken the precaution of at least attempting to monitor what is being carried on these planes as they land and then leave from Gander?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, there have been no flights at Gander, or stop downs at Gander, since the particular declaration was made terminating the Aeroflot flights to Montreal. There have been no flights except the particular flight that I thought was justified, to return the circus to Moscow. I should add that, apart from the Aeroflot flights that were regularly scheduled, the number of flights that have used Gander is very limited. I think there were only one or two flights in 1983, up to the present time. There have been no other flights, to my knowledge, since we announced the termination of the regular Aeroflot flights.

LANDING RIGHTS AT GANDER—COMPENSATION FOR KOREAN AIRLINER VICTIMS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, again my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he answer two questions? First, have there been no further Soviet flights because they have chosen not to come into Gander, or has the Government told the Soviet Union that its landing rights at Gander have ended?

Second, in view of the fact that the editor-in-chief of the Soviet Communist Party newspaper has indicated that there will never be an apology or any compensation for the victims of the KAL 007 tragedy, would the Minister indicate what further steps will be taken by the Government to ensure that compensation will be forthcoming, in view of the fact that it has practically been laughed at in its first two attempts just to deliver a note indicating a hope to seek compensation?