

Oral Questions

the National Energy Board hearings was that his company is 100 per cent owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. of San Francisco. His gas company is a subsidiary of the U.S. gas company. He was really being a mouthpiece for the U.S. parent company, saying to forget Canadians, their future and energy security, and sell Americans as much natural gas as possible, as cheaply as possible.

It may call itself an Alberta gas company, but it really is a U.S. gas company. When the president of the company calls for more exports to the United States, I trust that the National Energy Board will recognize just who is doing in the talking.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD[*English*]**TERRORISM****TRAGIC END TO HIJACKING OF EGYPTIAN AIRLINER—LOSS OF CANADIAN LIVES**

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Canadians were shocked and saddened to learn today that two Canadians were killed by terrorists who hijacked an Egyptian airliner and forced it to land in Malta. The Official Opposition and, I am sure, all Members of this House wish to express sincere condolences to the Leonard family. I would like to express the hope that the Government will do everything possible to assist the family in their time of sorrow.

Is it the intention of the Government to make sure that the family will be assisted in every form possible to help them in these very difficult circumstances?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think that all Members of this House and everyone in the country share the sense of outrage and regret at the events in Malta and the death of two innocent Canadians.

Today both the Prime Minister and I were in touch by telephone with the parents and grandparents of the two Canadian victims and have, as the Hon. Member has suggested, indicated to them all of the co-operation of the Government of Canada and, indeed, all of the support of the Parliament and the people of Canada would be with them.

[*Translation*]**INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT HAS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO GOVERNMENT OF GREECE CONCERNING ATHENS AIRPORT**

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Secretary of State for External Affairs for his statement. I would like to ask him a question on one of the problems which has led to this tragic situation.

As Hon. Members know, the Athens airport has been the site of several such attacks. I would like to know whether the Government has already made representations to the Greek Government authorities so they will make sure this airport will not be used again for similar highjacking attempts. Tragic incidents have occurred in recent months and it is with deep sadness that we were witness to a repeat of similar incidents over the weekend. Had the Government already made representations concerning the safety of Canadian travellers who use the Athens airport?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Along with the other countries of the world, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to find out exactly where the terrorists boarded the aircraft. At this moment it is not at all certain that it was in Greece.

INQUIRY IF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONSULTED AND CONSENTED TO ASSAULT ON AIRCRAFT

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. According to the information I was given, the Canadian Government knew that Canadian passengers were on the Egyptian aircraft before it was stormed? Was the Canadian Government consulted before the Egyptian commandos stormed the aircraft and did it agree to this attempt to free the hostages?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Under the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, there was no time for further consultation. Consultations were held only between the Egyptian forces and the Maltese authorities. There were no other consultations.

[*English*]

I should simply say in addition, Mr. Speaker, that all of us naturally deeply regret the loss of life. All of us know that terrorism and hijacking have to be stopped.

A very difficult decision was taken by Egyptian authorities on the ground, under pressure, on the basis of the best information available to them in the circumstances. I do not think it serves anyone's interest for us to try to second guess the wisdom of that decision.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS**OWNERSHIP OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS—OFFER OF MEDIATION**

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It has been reported today that the Government of British Columbia has turned down the offer made by the Minister of the Environment and