

Oral Questions

the end of the year that agreement will not be reached, it is open to one or both parties to make use of third country arbitration. There was no specific agreement as to the form of arbitration that might be employed but the means are available to settle that particular question.

* * *

[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS**INQUIRY WHETHER PLACE GUY FAVREAU PROJECT IN MONTREAL HAS BEEN ABANDONED**

Mr. Prosper Boulanger (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Minister of Public Works, but in his absence I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Has the minister dropped the project of Place Guy Favreau in Montreal?

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Place Guy Favreau project in Montreal has not been dropped. However, we are considering a more modest project, which may have various uses.

* * *

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**IMPRISONMENT OF ANATOLY SCHARANSKY IN SOVIET UNION—EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has his attention been drawn to the case of Anatoly Scharansky, founding member of the Soviet group monitoring the Helsinki Agreement who has been imprisoned and charged with espionage despite the fact that his only offence was his application for a visa to emigrate from the Soviet Union? If the minister is aware of this, has he given consideration to making representations to the government of the Soviet Union urging it to live up to the commitment it made when it signed the Helsinki Agreement and to permit Mr. Scharansky to leave the Soviet Union?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course I am familiar with the case in question which has been widely publicized and has been called to my attention by the hon. member and other members of the House. We have not made representations to the Soviet Union on this particular case but it is our judgment that the general representations I have made repeatedly with regard to the treatment of dissidents as well, of course, as on family reunification, covers situations such as this one. In our preparations for the Belgrade conference we have to assess the ongoing effects of the Helsinki Agreement and I have no doubt that Canada, along with many other countries, will be making the same kind of strong representations at Belgrade.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

Mr. Orlikow: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the United States government which is also assessing the position it will take at the Belgrade conference, has already expressed its views to the government of the Soviet Union in connection with this case, will the minister consider making direct representations to let the Soviet Union know that its actions will be a factor in the attitude of the Canadian representatives at that conference?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to consider that but as I have said many times in the House there is no question from my point of view and, I am sure, of hon. members, that there is a certain amount of satisfaction which comes from commenting on individual cases. It has been our experience, however, that it is more effective in most circumstances to make the kinds of representations to which I referred earlier. If there is something to be gained by joining with other countries in a specific reference to an individual, certainly I will be glad to look into it.

STABBING AND POLICE HARASSMENT OF MRS. NORMA MASON IN TIJUANA, MEXICO—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Just over two months ago Mrs. Norma Mason from Surrey was visiting Tijuana, Mexico and was stabbed by an unknown assailant. I have asked the minister whether he has lodged a formal protest with the Mexican government regarding this incident because it followed that in her semi-paralytic state she was harassed by the police. Has the minister lodged a formal protest with the Mexican government and is the government going to give her some kind of compensation for that harassment?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice. That is all the more reason why I am sorry to have to say to him that after he talked to me there was not time to get the full details. I will get them as quickly as possible, however. On the question of representations, I am quite certain although it is not of my personal knowledge that we have made representations already. I will get an up-to-date report from our ambassador in Mexico and from our local officials on the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This must be one of those rare parliamentary occasions on which notice can be given in advance of a supplementary question.

* * *

TRANSPORT**INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES ON POTATOES AND PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT—REASON FOR TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Minister of Transport has heard of this question in