

### Oral Questions

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, to answer the direct question correctly, the United States did not put direct pressure on me with respect to Canadian policy.

Now if the Leader of the New Democratic Party is suggesting that in the world of international affairs other countries do not express their views to the foreign minister of Canada then he is living in some kind of a dream world. I have received suggestions about Canadian policy from his friend Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Our friend is the President of Costa Rica. Talk to your boss.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** I have received suggestions about Canadian foreign policy from officials of the United States. I have received them from a number of other people. Our rule is whatever other foreign governments might suggest about Canadian policy, we set Canadian policy here in Canada for Canadian reasons. That has been our practice, that will continue to be our practice.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I say to the Secretary of State for External Affairs that it was not the New Democratic Party, it was Mr. Roche, a former Conservative MP, a former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament who said this pressure was put on the Government of Canada; it did not come from this side. The minister did not answer the question in an appropriate way, and he knows it.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a supplementary to the same minister or the Prime Minister, who is going to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has on a number of occasions recently talked about creating a nuclear free zone in the Arctic. Recently Mr. Gorbachev was in Finland again and he repeated the proposal. Canada has always been cool to this suggestion. I want to ask the Prime Minister if when he goes to the Soviet Union he will respond seriously to this suggestion by the Soviet Union, including asking questions about the Soviet armaments they have in the Kola Peninsula? Instead of reacting in a *carte blanche* negative way which the United States has to this, will he accept and propose a positive response on this important matter?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, yes, indeed. I propose to review with the President of the Soviet Union all avenues of co-operation and to explore with him and his colleagues all reasonable opportunities for progress and for a greater degree of stability.

I really do not know why my friend is so exercised in putting questions to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or to me in this regard. I doubt if there has been a greater degree of disengagement by the superpowers than in the last two or three years. I think that any fair-minded person would say that this results on the one hand from a great degree of leadership from the new President of the Soviet Union and also a great degree of firmness and leadership from the President of the United States and the leaders of the NATO countries in solidarity. It is generally recognized that we are entering a new era of hope and opportunity and I would have thought my hon. friend would celebrate that rather than be carping and negative as he enters his—

**An Hon. Member:** Swan song.

**An Hon. Member:** Twilight years.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The twilight years of a very distinguished career.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

**Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. According to the U.S. Department of State 1988 report to Congress on human rights practices around the world, as many as 20 of the 32 OAS member countries have been accused of human rights abuses. Of those, nine are known to have frequent disappearances, political killings and tortures.

I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, now that Canada has joined the OAS without public consultation, how does the government intend to monitor these violations and how does it plan to contend with these abuses?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there is an interesting theme running through these questions. Are we to assume that the Liberal party believes that Canada should not play a leading role in this hemisphere?