

Oral Questions

Mr. Noble Power, met with Prime Minister Adams last Friday. In the course of that discussion Prime Minister Adams mentioned the possibility of the Eastern Caribbean states considering military action and that it would have to be discussed at a subsequent meeting of those states. He made no mention of a decision for an invasion, nor did he make any mention of any participation by the United States.

The accuracy of his recollection of that meeting and the report he gave on it is confirmed by a meeting High Commissioner Power had yesterday with Prime Minister Adams in which the Prime Minister apologized, through Mr. Power, to our Prime Minister for there not being prior consultations with Canada.

Miss Jewett: Madam Speaker, the Minister has not given us the assurance I think this House needs, that the Minister for External Relations was in fact informed of the meeting and the speculation—if it was only speculation, because I understood it was much more than that—that there was going to be an invasion.

REMOVAL OF CANADIAN CITIZENS FROM GRENADA

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, to the same Minister, I am particularly worried about all Canadians there and about the six CUSO workers—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I really have to ask the Hon. Member to come to her questions more quickly. This is the supplementary question and it looks like it is going to be as long as the first one.

Miss Jewett: Madam Speaker, I was just coming to the question. Has the Minister any information about whether the United States has at last stopped stalling Canada's attempts with a Hercules aircraft to evacuate the Canadians there?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I say to the Hon. Member, through you, that I have no evidence or indication that the U.S. at any time has been stalling in relation to our rescue operation. We have been anxious that Canadians be brought out at the first possible time it was safe to do so. Indeed, our consular official who travelled yesterday to Grenada returned and said it was not safe to move Canadians from the Ross Point Inn to the airport at that time because of the areas in which fighting was still occurring. I subsequently explored the possibility of the use of American helicopters to move our people to the airport.

During the night, when I received a call from General Sturgess, who is in charge of our military mission in Washington, we received permission for the Hercules aircraft to go in and take the people out as soon as they could be safely removed to the airport.

While I cannot vouch for the absolute authenticity of the latest word, I have just been handed a note which says that the High Commissioner in Barbados has phoned and that Canadi-

ans are now being assembled at Point Salines and the Hercules has departed Barbados for Grenada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: I would add that, in the meantime, seven Canadians elsewhere in the island, and we do not have their identities as yet, have apparently been evacuated by American aircraft to South Carolina. There may be several Canadians still in the St. George's area and we are doing everything possible under the military conditions, which are quite different than have been portrayed in the last day or two, to make effective contact with them.

Miss Jewett: Given the length of the Minister's replies, it does show the need for an emergency debate in this House.

FATE OF GRENADIAN LEADERS

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, does the Minister have any information at all on the fate of government leaders in Grenada, particularly the fate of Bernard Coard, and can he give us any information about the puppet Government the United States is organizing in Barbados—

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Miss Jewett:—for Grenada?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I have no information at this time relating to the fate of Bernard Coard or other government leaders on the island, although I do have a report that contact has been made with the Governor General, the details of which are unknown.

Again I want to emphasize to the Hon. Member that the conditions on the island are such, particularly in built-up areas, that there are far more people with arms opposing the invasion than had been anticipated, and communications as well as movement are extremely difficult. Under those circumstances it is not surprising that it is not yet possible to have information on the whereabouts of former government leaders. I have no information whatsoever with reference to the possible formation of a new government.

REPORTED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL OF GRENADA

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the same Minister who will know that in a parliamentary democracy the highest constitutional authority is the Governor General. Given that Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, indicated that the original request for assistance this past weekend in fact originated with the Governor General of the island, has the Government changed its view of the event?