

As Senator Di Nino will know, the Canadian government and the Prime Minister very strongly condemned the decision by the Nigerian authorities. Indeed, Prime Minister Chrétien was very outspoken in his efforts to mobilize public opinion against the occurrence of such a tragedy.

In concert with other nations, Canada has recalled its chargé d'affaires from Lagos for consultation. The Canadian government is considering a number of measures against Nigeria's military regime to promote the return to democracy in that country. The honourable senator might appreciate that the most effective manner of doing this is through multilateral action. The kinds of measures which might be taken will be discussed with Canada's Commonwealth allies, and also within the United Nations family.

Senator Di Nino: Honourable senators, it is laudable that our colleague the Leader of the Government in the Senate agrees with us. I have no doubt that she does, and I am delighted to hear it.

However, is the government prepared to take some leadership in this matter, and take some action against the hoodlums who are running Nigeria, or will it be as cowardly in dealing with this issue as it was in dealing with the hoodlums who are governing China?

Senator Fairbairn: Honourable senators, I will not repeat the answer I gave to the honourable senator earlier. I will only add that Canada very definitely took the lead in advance of its Commonwealth allies on this issue, and intends to follow up this tragedy with action. We have already taken certain diplomatic actions, and other actions are being suggested in discussions among Commonwealth nations and the United Nations.

From past history of movements toward governments such as the government of Nigeria, we have learned that the effectiveness of international action is based primarily on the unity of nations, and on the response emanating from them. In concert with its partners both at the United Nations and in the Commonwealth, Canada is very actively attempting to reach some agreement on what kind of action will produce an effective and meaningful result in Nigeria.

Senator Di Nino: We look forward to your actions.

MANUFACTURE AND USE OF LAND MINES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. A. Raynell Andreychuk: Honourable senators, staying on the international front, I wish to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate with regard to land mines and the conventions dealing with them. I associate myself with her comment that multilateral action is the way to go on certain issues of human rights and international difficulties. I am pleased that Canada is involved multilaterally in trying to curb the use of land mines.

I am, however, distressed by the fact that, on a bilateral basis, the minister in charge has stated that Canada would continue to manufacture certain parts which can be used only for land mines.

In trying to discern what the government policy is, I got contradictory statements from various departments. In the end, my office was told that the whole matter is under review.

• (1420)

Could the Leader of the Government enlighten me as to where we stand today on land mines and the countless deaths that they have caused? We do not know the names of the dead, but we see the horrors in many countries: Cambodia, Vietnam, Bosnia, and the list goes on.

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I, too, have been seeking information on this very issue, and I will share it when I receive it.

ENVIRONMENT

REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL STANDARDS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Mira Spivak: Honourable senators, at a recent federal-provincial meeting discussing greenhouse gas emissions, there seemed to be a difference of opinion between the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Natural Resources. It seems that the Minister of Natural Resources favours a voluntary approach on the part of the provinces in curbing greenhouse gas emissions, while the Minister of the Environment, who is attempting to achieve federal standards for curbing levels of greenhouse gas emissions, does not.

I should like to know the Leader of the Government's personal views on this matter, as well the policy of the government in terms of national standards.

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, one thing that is sure is that both of my colleagues are united in their desire to see an orderly reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. I know there was a meeting a few days ago among ministers in Edmonton. I should like, to look into that meeting and obtain a report on the exact outcome.

Senator Spivak: Honourable senators, environment is a matter of shared jurisdiction. I know that there have been efforts to harmonize environmental evaluations. However, in making her enquiries, could the Leader of the Government in the Senate clarify how all of this will eventually play out?

Greenhouse gas emissions are a major concern. The reason for Minister Copps' position is that there has been new scientific information on global warming. Could the minister clarify whether, if it chooses, the federal government will be able to set federal standards? That is a very important question.

Senator Fairbairn: It is an important question, honourable senators. I agree that the issue itself is enormous, both internationally and for Canada. I shall try to obtain an answer for the honourable senator.