

Adjournment Debate

for a NATO tactical fighter centre. This centre, when established, will be used for training allied air forces.

Two sites are presently under review, Goose Bay and Konya, Turkey.

Any decision not to build the centre would be taken by members of the Alliance, and no such decision has occurred.

Canada continues, therefore, to work toward the goal of establishing the centre at Goose Bay. We also continue to discuss our interests with parties opposed to the establishment of the centre in Canada.

I want to say once again to assure this House that any decision to establish the centre at Goose Bay is subject to the government's ruling on the environmental panel's recommendations and the over-all terms and conditions proposed by NATO.

• (1720)

In 1984, when the Government of Canada proposed Goose Bay as a possible site for the centre, the government began the environmental assessment review process. The first of two phases has been completed with the publication of the environmental impact statement.

This study was released for public review, and full hearings will be conducted in the affected communities of Labrador and northeastern Quebec. The panel may also wish to hold hearings in major centres in eastern Canada before recommendations are made to the federal government.

I would also point out that the establishment of a NATO tactical fighter centre at Goose Bay would, as the Prime Minister said, create new jobs for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. It would be of great economic benefit.

As I said earlier, no decision has been taken by NATO not to proceed with the establishment of the centre.

The Government of Canada will continue with the environmental assessment process to determine the feasibility of establishing a NATO tactical fighter centre at Goose Bay.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I may add that when we made our offer in 1984, we were serious about it. Today, people tend to criticize government studies. In fact, we are damned if we do and damned if we don't.

Mr. Speaker, I met many groups, including one that did not want to take part in the task force because it wanted to sell its study instead of giving it away.

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 1990, I rose in this House to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to intervene to help Leonid and Natalia Stonov. They have been waiting for almost 12 years to get their exit visas to leave the U.S.S.R. and go to Israel.

They first applied to leave in 1979, almost 12 years ago. They last applied in 1988. At that time were not only turned down again but were told: "Do not apply for at least another four years".

The reason for the latest refusal in 1988 was that Leonid possesses state secrets. Mr. Stonov was a herbologist. He has not practised his profession in over 10 years. How could he possibly possess, at this stage, state secrets that would worry the U.S.S.R.?

Even Mr. Gorbachev has stated that, in most cases, the state secrecy rule should not apply beyond five years. How could the Stonov's case possibly be an exception to that statement by Mr. Gorbachev?

On Sunday, March 25, 1990, I met with Natalia Stonov at Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Willowdale. She was in Canada on a visitor's visa. The Stonovs have been adopted by the Congregation of Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

On that morning we contacted Leonid Stonov in Moscow. It was thrilling to talk to him.

Leonid is one of the leading members of the Refusnik community in Moscow. Perhaps that is why he has been treated so cruelly for over 10 years.

He and Natalia, who is a physician, have both been stripped of their academic degrees and were once arrested for parasitic behaviour. In other words, they were unemployed.