

*Oral Questions***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****NICARAGUA—ATTACK ON PROJECT SPONSORED BY FARMERS FOR PEACE**

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. We learned this past weekend that a Canadian aid project in Nicaragua supported by the Farmers for Peace group which, as he knows, is very active in his own province, was once again attacked by the U.S. supported and financed Contra organization with loss of life and very serious property damage.

The last time such an attack took place the protest raised by the Canadian Government with its U.S. counterparts came to absolutely nothing. Would the Deputy Prime Minister see fit to contact his colleagues who are attending the Commonwealth Conference, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to ask them to raise once again the strongest possible opposition to this kind of attack on Canadian aid projects?

Is it not time for the Government to speak out in an unqualified way against continued U.S. aid to the Contra forces which are now attacking Canadian backed projects in Nicaragua?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact we learned of the attack on that project on October 9. Indeed, the first attack had been denounced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We had even discussed the matter with Mr. Shultz at the time. We have asked our Ambassador to that country for a report, and are monitoring the situation very closely.

● (1425)

[*English*]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT TELL AMERICANS TO STOP AIDING CONTRAS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, that is not an answer to the question. The project has been attacked a second time. Obviously that first protest had absolutely no impact whatsoever on the Americans.

I want to ask the Government, especially in light of the fact that today the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to President Arias of Costa Rica who has specifically asked other countries to speak out against Contra aid, if the Government will have the courage to stand up and tell the Americans to stop aiding the Contras, stop attacking our projects, stop risking human lives.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the

first attack was strongly protested by the Minister in this House, and some representations were made. Of course we condemn the second attack and are monitoring the situation very closely. We will take appropriate action.

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[*English*]

TRADE**ENERGY—EFFECT OF UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Energy, whoever is answering today with respect to the trade agreement that was initialled in principle between Canada and the United States some 10 days ago.

The Premier of Prince Edward Island is quoted in today's press as saying that in all the discussions leading up to the proposed agreement there was absolutely no mention by the Prime Minister of talks taking place in the important domain of energy.

Will the Government confirm that not only was there no discussion of energy with the Premiers leading up to the weekend on which an agreement took place, but even when the Prime Minister met with the Premiers on the Friday before the agreement was initialled in principle he did not mention the subject of energy although it profoundly affects the provinces? Will the Government confirm this incredible allegation made by the Premier of Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it must be made very clear to the Hon. Member that the intent of this agreement and the effect of it is to improve trade in energy and remove the trade barriers in energy between the two countries.

There is no change in the regulation. There is no change in the regulatory practices. There is only a removal of the trade barriers between the two countries, the effect of which will be greater encouragement to investment in our energy resources that will increase our security of supply because investors in Canada will have a greater incentive to invest and more security that these resources can find a market without the obstacles that have restricted that market during the past number of years.

Mr. Broadbent: This Minister, in addition to his colleague last week, must be tuned into Radio Peking because he has not answered the question at all.

ROLE OF PROVINCES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, Section 92(a) of the Constitution in 1982 gave to the provinces very specific powers over the control, development and management of their resources. Therefore, does the Government not believe