

*Oral Questions*

receives about \$50 million presently. As a contractor, Petro-Canada then does the work in particular countries. I think we all recognize this is part of External Affairs policy and is our contribution as Canadians to the development of some of these energy sources.

In terms of the specific question that the member asked, will this be reconciled with human rights violations in possibly other countries, I know the Secretary of State for External Affairs is aware of the implications of that question. He and I will continue to look at the role Canada plays. I think we have to balance what was done, for example, in Myanmar, and the ability of Canada to contribute internationally to further development as well.

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[*Translation*]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, at a time when the government has withdrawn national unity from the CBC's mandate, the polls show that national unity has become a top priority for Canadians.

My question is directed to the Minister of Communications. Considering that broadcasting is a powerful force that contributes to the understanding, tolerance and generosity of Canadians from coast to coast in these unstable times, will the minister take this opportunity to put national unity back into the mandate of the CBC?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I do not find it surprising that in a country, people should be in favour of national unity. We have a problem when the opposite is true. I think everyone in this House should be delighted when the polls say that a majority of Canadians favour national unity in this country.

Second, the question is whether the Union nationale—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. member:** That was 20 years ago!

**Mr. Masse:** My political roots are showing, Madam.

We must determine whether national unity is something to be inflicted or to be experienced. We believe that the Union nationale—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Masse:** —that national unity should not be the result of force-fed propaganda but of a positive will.

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, for the minister's information, national unity is something that is built.

[*English*]

It is not a propaganda tool to find a vehicle across this land that will let Canadians know one another from coast to coast. If that is propaganda, I feel sorry for the minister's vision.

I feel very passionately about Canada. There seems to be a difference in viewpoints in this House as to how it should be expressed. Last week the Prime Minister was passionate when he said to the Council for Canadian Unity, and I quote: "Everything we have accomplished as a country can be traced to our sense of national purpose, to our national unity".

If the Prime Minister speaks for the Government of Canada, will the Minister of Communications today undertake to reinstate the national unity mandate to Radio-Canada, to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I have the impression that—

[*English*]

—the member is building her attack for next week when the bill will be before the House.

First, I have to tell the hon. member something. We ask the CBC to reflect what is Canada. What was done in 1968 was to put the question of national unity. What type of country have you left to us in 1982? Something without Quebec. So, we prefer our approach to your approach.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Finestone:** That's right, because you have been unconscionable.