

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, hopefully, I shall be meeting Mr. Brezhnev but I doubt whether at this late date we shall be able to make significant changes in the agreement, as reached so far. I point out to the hon. member that the agreement provides for change, for peaceful change. It does accept, more or less, the boundaries which were agreed to by the United Nations, but does not freeze them for all time. It accepts the possibility of change through peaceful means.

Mr. Wagner: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since self-determination is an integral part of security, because there cannot be security so long as the people are not free, has the Prime Minister considered refusing to sign the conference treaty if no acceptable provisions for self-determination are included in it?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, no, I do not plan to refuse to sign the treaty which has been arrived at through many, many months and years of negotiation between ourselves and our NATO partners. I repeat: the point the hon. member is attempting to make I think is covered in the draft document, as it provides for peaceful change and not for the freezing of borders for all time.

● (1410)

POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING WITH RUSSIAN LEADERS
ACTIONS OF RUSSIAN FISHING VESSELS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In his discussions with the Russian leader will the Prime Minister be discussing matters that are related to the closing of Canadian ports to Russian fishing vessels, and under what conditions and circumstances will these ports be reopened? Will the Prime Minister also be discussing questions covering the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries and the importance to Canada, as well as to all signatory powers, of Russia's remaining within the agreed quotas?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): In a sense, Mr. Speaker, the questions are hypothetical, even though I recognize they are very important. I must point out to the House that there are a certain number of bilateral meetings which we are attempting to arrange. I do not know whether at this time I will have any great time with any particular leader. Well, I should not say that; there are some meetings that I know are confirmed, but in the case of Secretary Brezhnev I do not believe any meeting has been confirmed, and therefore it would be premature to talk about an agenda.

However, I would inform the hon. member that I did write to Premier Kosygin last week about this whole matter, and the thrust of my message to him was that we are taking these actions, as I believe we are entitled to do under ICNAF, with a view to ensuring that the fisheries will be there and will not disappear. I believe this is the point of view that the Russian fishermen themselves would be inclined to share with us. The way things are going now, the Minister of State (Fisheries) has made it clear that the species themselves are endangered. They are endangered for us, for our fishermen, and for the fishermen of other nations. That is the point of view that I will

[Mr. Wagner.]

be conveying to him, that it is in the interests of humanity that we exercise discretion in the exploitation of these resources.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LETTER TO PREMIER KOSYGIN
AND ASSURANCE EXTENSION OF JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES
WILL BE DISCUSSED AT HELSINKI

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Prime Minister make available to the House the letters that he mentioned which will be exchanged between himself and the Russian leaders; and will he give an assurance that the 200 mile limit or economic zone will be discussed with someone during his visit to Helsinki?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): On the first point, Mr. Speaker, I will not give that assurance. This is correspondence that I had with Premier Kosygin and it would be improper for me to table it, at least without his permission. I have told the House the essence of my message in it. I have indicated a preparedness to have discussions with Secretary General Brezhnev in Helsinki if such an arrangement can be made.

I did raise the question of the 200 mile limit and indicated that in fact our actions now were predicated on the assumption that we were hoping that the 200 mile economic zone would eventually be recognized in international law, that we were acting as trustees, guardians and stewards of this resource so that there would be some for everybody—preferably first for Canadians, but that the resource itself would be there. It was in the context of international law evolving toward a 200 mile economic zone that we were taking our action.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

REASON FOR DELAY IN TABLING REPORT ON EXECUTIVE
COMPENSATION—DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of the report of the advisory group on executive compensation in the public service which the minister tabled in the House last Friday. May I ask him why it took four months for the government to table this report, having had it in its possession, I understand, some four months ago; and did it have anything to do with the discussions that the Minister of Finance was deeply embedded in at the time in terms of guidelines for salary and wage increases? Related to that, would the Prime Minister inform the House whether or not any action has been taken yet on the report, having in mind the recommendation that certain salary increases become effective on April 1 of this year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the hon. member got the figure of four months. I have not been acquainted with the report, and I do not believe the government has, for anything like that length of time. I must say that I took cognizance of the report within a matter of a few days before the budget was brought down by the Minister of