

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister says there is no agreement between Canada and the United States with regard to the Sentinel A.B.M. system may I ask whether the discussions which took place were merely the passing on of information between the United States government and the Canadian government, and whether this constitutes, to use Mr. Laird's words, an agreement cleared with the Canadian government? Were we merely informed, or was Canada consulted and asked to approve.

**Mr. Trudeau:** As I stated in reply to the Leader of the Opposition, we were not consulted in the sense that we were asked to agree or disagree. Certain information was conveyed to us and we were told of developments within the United States. We were not asked whether we agreed or disagreed with it, nor did we state whether we agreed or disagreed with it.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Prime Minister. Did the government of Canada express any opinion with respect to the advisability of proceeding in this regard, or the danger that such a step might escalate the nuclear arms race?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. In discussion with the President, the Secretary of Defence and other officials we did express our deep concern as to the consequence and effect of the decision announced by the President. This was very much along the same lines that the two ministers and I pursued in this house a few days ago.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Canada apparently was only informed and not consulted, does this mean that we accept the position which Mr. Laird took, to the effect that he did not think the United States should give Canada any veto power or, as Senator Fulbright summed it up, the Canadians could either like it or lump it?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Obviously the United States does not consider that we should have a power of veto over its decision to proceed or not with an A.B.M. system. Before the government takes a further position in this respect we will, of course, be welcoming any input from the house on these questions. When the parliamentary committee makes a

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report on this subject there will be occasion, I am sure, for parliament to take a position on this question and many others. We will be looking forward to hearing the position of the opposition parties on this precise point.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Does he consider that the statement by the Secretary of Defence of the United States, Mr. Laird, is correct, when he says that Canada has been kept informed of all decisions taken in connection with the setting up of an ABM system on the American territory?

**Mr. Speaker:** It seems to me that the hon. member is asking a question that was put a few moments ago.

[English]

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he was informed where the intercepts by the projected A.B.M. sites in the western United States would take place. For the interception of incoming missiles, would the intercepts be over western Canada or over American territory?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, according to the information we received, this system will employ two types of A.B.M.'s, the Spartan and the Sprint. In the case of the Spartan the interceptions will occur outside the atmosphere of the earth. They will not be in our air space. They will be in the outer atmosphere. In the case of the Sprints, because of the location of these two sites in the midwest and because of the short range of the Sprints, it appears that the interceptions would be entirely over United States territory.

**Mr. Harkness:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the intercept, as far as the Spartan is concerned, be in the outer atmosphere immediately above Canadian territory?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that it would be outside the earth's atmosphere. It would be in that part of the universe which belongs to no one, except perhaps the angels.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has "heavenly" avoided my question.