

Oral Questions

the Pope, to El Salvador this Sunday, and on whether the Canadian Government has taken any interest in his safety by making a representation to the Government of El Salvador that it declare a ceasefire while His Holiness is there, in response to the same suggestion from the guerrilla side. The Minister has not answered that, and I would like him to do so.

The Minister mentioned the resolution which Canada introduced at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. There has been a wave of protest across the country about the fact that the resolution is weak. It was no teeth. It fails to call for any political dialogue between the Government of El Salvador and the rebel forces there. Why has the Government in its resolution not called for a political dialogue between the contending forces in El Salvador? This is the only way that human rights violations will cease. Why have we not done that? Are we opposed to such a dialogue? Are we urging such a dialogue on the United States? If the Minister would deal with both those issues, I would appreciate it.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (External Relations)): Madam Speaker, regarding the U.N. resolution presented to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, it is a draft resolution which we are negotiating with a number of other delegations. As far as appealing to the parties to initiate a political dialogue, we are certainly prepared to include that aspect in our resolution, and we are also prepared to appeal to the international community to cease all military aid to El Salvador. Therefore, as far as the first half of the question is concerned, namely, whether we have made any direct representation recently, urging a cease-fire during the Pope's visit to El Salvador, I can inform the Hon. Member that we are urging the Salvadorean parties to initiate a cease-fire, without specifying any particular events to justify doing so. The Pope's visit as such should not be grounds for bringing about a cease-fire which we have been seeking for quite some time.

● (1120)

[*English*]

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, I gather from the Minister's reply that we have not made representations to El Salvador in connection with the visit of His Holiness the Pope. I can assure the Minister that there are many hundreds of thousands of people in this country who are very concerned about the Pope's safety, and I think representations should be made today.

PARLIAMENTARY SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same Minister. The final report of the Subcommittee on Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean was tabled on November 30, 1982. The Minister will know that report asked the Government to make a written response to the Committee's recommendations and to schedule a day's debate in the House, the

same treatment accorded to the Committee on North South Relations. Three months have passed and we have had no response to the recommendations, although the Prime Minister indicated he favoured our joining the OAS but he was just waiting for a report from the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Can the Minister tell the House if the Government is going to observe that request by making a written response to the Subcommittee's recommendations, and schedule a debate in the House on the report? Further, what is the position on the OAS? Are we going to have an answer on the recommendations of the majority, in that area?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (External Relations)): Madam Speaker, I am indeed aware of the contents of the report of the Sub-Committee of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, which examines Canada's policy on Latin America. After the report was published, it was said on several occasions, and in fact I myself made this clear, that we were very impressed with the excellent work done by the members of this committee. However, I am not in a position today to give exact dates for our response to the committee's report, but I think it would be reasonable to assume that such response will be forthcoming by the beginning of this summer.

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[*English*]

AIRPORTS

SALE OF SURPLUS EXPROPRIATED LANDS AT MIRABEL

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works regarding the sale of land at Mirabel. Mr. J. P. Goyer, head of the Canada Lands Company, has issued a notice to tenants of surplus Mirabel lands to the effect that those wishing to purchase the property they occupy must put down a 5 per cent deposit immediately and arrange for full payment within 30 days. If they do not, the deposit is lost. Can the Minister say if this is accurate?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I am not familiar with those facts. I will look into this and report.

IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMIT ON PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, I am amazed that the Minister who is responsible for Canada Lands is not aware of how those lands are being disposed of, since it has been brought up in this House so often. Does he feel that 30 days are an adequate amount of time for these tenants to arrange financing to purchase the property? Does he feel it is fair that these people will lose their deposit if they cannot arrange the financing within 30 days?