

*Oral Questions***CANADA DAY**

CELEBRATION OF FIRST OFFICIAL FESTIVAL

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, because of the good work accomplished by the Hon. Member for Vaudreuil with respect to Canada Day, this will be the first year that we will officially celebrate Canada Day on July 1. I wonder if the Secretary of State could inform us of some of the special plans which will be organized for this year's celebration.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I join with all Members who voted for the amendment which enables us to celebrate Canada Day this year for the first time in our history. With that in mind, I will be in a position this week to advise all associations as well as all men and women who have prepared projects to celebrate this national holiday so that they will receive grants early enough to plan their celebration of Canada Day carefully.

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[*English*]

NATIONAL DEFENCELOW ANGLE RADAR PROGRAM—APPLICATION TO POSSIBLE
CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. It is a follow-up to the question I asked yesterday with regard to the "low angle radar measurement" program. Yesterday, both in the House and outside it, the Minister stated that this project has nothing to do with Cruise missiles. Does the Minister still stand by that statement? If so, can he tell us why scientists from the Cruise Missile Technology Group of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are regular participants in the testing program, and why a Canadian consultant to the program would freely admit that the major spinoff is for the Cruise missile, that the information yielded by the testing will improve the survivability of these missiles?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I think that this question involving the low angle radar measurement test concerns a test agreement which was signed in 1979. If I remember correctly, it was in November of 1979 that a memorandum of understanding was signed between the United States and Canada to test low angle radar measurement equipment. There was no connection then with the Cruise missile. It was a question of improving our radar capabilities, as I said yesterday, and I think I gave the right answer then. I think, by the way, that the media interpreted my answer very well in the newspapers. I think the Hon. Member should read everything I said yesterday. I still hold to

the view that when this agreement was signed in 1979 there was no question of involving the Cruise missile. No one knew about it in the United States. Then, after that, maybe the technology of what they refer to as low angle radar measurement could be involved in some of the improvements or refinements to the Cruise missile to be tested.

INVOLVEMENT OF UNITED STATES MISSILE TECHNOLOGY
GROUP

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, I have no doubt that the first part of the Minister's answer is correct and that part of this testing is for low angle radar, but I want to ask him specifically what has happened since that memorandum of understanding was signed in November, 1979? Why would a group, which is called the Cruise Missile Technology Group, be studying this matter if it is not working toward developing technology to use on the Cruise missile? Will the Minister undertake to determine just what is going on in this testing, and undertake to determine if any other testing in Canada is going on which may involve applications to be used in nuclear weapons systems?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member seems to have an obsession about the Cruise missile. There are some other things going on in Canada and in other countries with regard to investigating new technology related to radar, and related to detecting low flying aircraft or low flying missiles, and all of that. The Cruise missile is not the only thing in existence. This radar technology could be applied to civilian aircraft, it could be applied to the facilities used in the approaches to airports. It could be applied in many areas. In 1979, when we decided to sign the memorandum of understanding, there was nothing about the Cruise missile in the memorandum.

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FISHERIES

GEORGES BANK—IMPACT OF UNITED STATES ACTION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. On March 10 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed an exclusive economic zone, claiming sovereign rights over all living and non-living resources within 200 miles of United States territories. Following this action a Bill was introduced in Congress that would close the U.S. 200 mile zone to all foreign fishing vessels by the end of 1987, with a gradual phase-out beginning next year.

Since this move by the United States could pre-empt the International Court's decision at the Hague on the boundary issue, an action which I know he will agree could be most harmful to Canadian fishing interests, I ask the Minister if he has made any representations to his American counterpart to safeguard our fishermen's rights on Georges Bank.