

Adjournment Debate

The movement of Polish consular officials is unrestricted in Canada. Anyone who has been following the press would know from that source alone that there is unending activity in this country in terms of information gathering that is being transmitted to the Soviet Union. The television documentary *Agents of Deception* a few weeks ago documented very clearly what is happening in that area. The report of the Law Reform Commission, calling for new measures to deal with crimes against the state, show that we in this country are desperately in need in this country of measures that will allow us to deal with this contemporary problem.

The Polish consulate is not only doubling in activity, but there are trading companies that operate on behalf of the Polish Government. For example, Dalimpex Ltd., also situated in my riding, sells and services a wide range of Polish consumer and industrial products. I have been conducting my own research on this company and its activities, based on various sources. Many people in the industrial heartland of Ontario are totally unaware most of the time that activities of interest to the Soviet Union are being assiduously pursued there and they are, therefore, less on guard than they should be. I can say that the scope and range of what is happening in the industrial heartland of Ontario is very revealing to me of the need for concerted and direct action, and a plan to deal with this, where the RCMP, the CSIS and External Affairs are acting in consort.

● (1820)

When we consider incidents such as the way that Soviet bloc consular representatives act within the various east European communities in this country, sowing the seeds of dissent, obtaining information, conducting intimidation and controlling visas along with many other activities like that, it is clear that we are on to something that deserves much more time than I can give in these seven minutes of debate.

I assure Members of the House that this is a subject that I am opening up now and to which I shall return time and time again until we are sure that the national security of Canada is properly and adequately protected and that Canadians understand the hard-ball reality of what is going on in this country in terms of subvention and subversion of our interests.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not start by, commending the hon. member for Etobicoke—Lakeshore (Mr. Boyer) for his determination in following up a case so as to seek the truth, his own truth, about the activities surrounding the expansion of the Polish consulate in Toronto.

Mr. Speaker, under the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, the host government has the power to control, as it sees fit, the number of diplomatic and non diplomatic agents in the embassies and consulates located on its territory. Therefore, it is always more convenient to have agreements on such a matter obviously. But when there is no agreement between

the Department of External Affairs and a country on the maximum number of agents accredited to work in its mission, the Department merely monitors the number of representatives according to certain on factors such as the number of Canadian diplomats in that country, the importance of our bilateral relations and other considerations. So, whenever a request to increase the staff of a foreign country is made in Canada, the Department examines the appropriateness of an equal increase in our own staff in that country and sees if our embassy needs more people to carry out its current operations.

But as far as the Polish consulate in Etobicoke—Lakeshore is concerned, there has been no increase of its staff. Indeed, we have allowed that consulate not long ago to proceed with the transfer of a vacant position to the Montreal consulate which needed it. According to our information, Mr. Speaker, the premises in Toronto are being expanded to build a reception room and a apartment to accomodate one agent already living there.

[English]

HEALTH—BAN ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING REQUESTED. (B)
HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS DESIGNATION INQUIRY

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, on May 26 of this year I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) a very important question on the issue of cigarette advertising and the terrible toll that tobacco-related diseases have on Canadians.

● (1825)

The answer I received from the Minister, I regret to say, was misleading, evasive and, indeed, somewhat rude. The banning of cigarette advertising, according to the Minister, would not have very much effect. He said: "painfully few effects". How does he know this? In fact, cigarette advertising has not been banned anywhere. There are partial bans in some places, but there has not been a complete ban, so we do not know how effective this action might be. We do know that in places where there has been a partial ban, there has definitely been an improvement, particularly in decreasing sales to young people.

When one considers that the number of deaths per year in Canada resulting from tobacco-related diseases is in the order of 35,000, if this could be reduced by only 10 per cent, that is 3,500 Canadians who died prematurely and very painfully of tobacco-related diseases, it would be worth-while. Even if 1 per cent were saved, that is 350 lives. That is half the murder rate. If anyone could come up with a plan to cut the murder rate in half, that person would be considered a great hero. Instead, the Minister of National Health and Welfare says 3,500 lives is nothing, so let us not bother doing anything about it. He suggested that I deal with the visuals and he would deal with the reality. However, he is not dealing with the question at all. He makes the occasional speech. His speeches go in the right direction. He says he is concerned about the problem, but there has been no action.