

Oral Questions

and authority in the Moslem enclave of Gorazde, which has fallen to the Bosnian Serbs. Ignoring UN ultimatums and systematically violating ceasefire agreements, the Bosnian Serb army relentlessly pursues its attack on Gorazde despite that city's designation as a safe area by the UN.

Can the Minister of Foreign Affairs bring us up to date on the situation currently prevailing in Gorazde and confirm that the Bosnian Serbs' sustained attack has put an end to the peace process?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs): Mr. Speaker, at lunch time, the Minister of Defence and I spoke with the Vice-President of Bosnia, Mr. Ganic. We reviewed the situation and we certainly deplore the escalation that seems to have taken place around some safe areas or enclaves where the Moslem population is at the mercy of Serbian troops' artillery. We cannot, of course, remain insensitive to this situation. There will be discussions with the representatives of allied countries to find as quickly as possible a solution to this situation that seems to be getting worse.

Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the UN asked NATO to stand ready to launch air strikes.

Can the minister indicate if Canada is actively participating in the development of a strategy for the Western countries and the UN, in order to respond to the intractability of the Bosnian Serbs who chose to further their cause with weapons instead of negotiations?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs): Mr. Speaker, certainly, Canadian representatives at NATO and the UN consulted one another and are participating in meetings to develop a common strategy. A first meeting at the level of NATO ambassadors was held yesterday and another one will take place tomorrow to decide on a common position in response to the UN Secretary General's written request.

We continue to think that negotiations are still the safest way to achieve lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia. We will not solve the problem by aggravating the military conflict. On the other hand, we are aware that we cannot remain indifferent to a handful of Serb fighters who ignore the ceasefires negotiated on all sides. We think that considerable efforts have been made by both the Croats and the Moslems, and it is now time for the Bosnian Serbs to come to the table and agree with the other parties on a peaceful solution to this conflict that has lasted for too long.

* * *

[English]

FISHERIES

Mr. John Cummins (Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

I listened closely to the \$1.9 billion fisheries announcement this morning. Could the Prime Minister tell the House why there was no economic diversification component to create real long term jobs in Atlantic Canada anywhere in the announcement?

Hon. David Dingwall (Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question on an important subject but he is wrong.

Part of the package announced by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of Human Resources Development has a component dealing with regional disparities and how we might be able to facilitate the private sector, particularly small and medium sized business, to take advantage of economic opportunities in that region.

Mr. John Cummins (Delta): Mr. Speaker, a careful reading of the package failed to reveal the items to which the minister is referring. In our view the package failed to address the critical issue of economic diversification in Atlantic Canada. Does the Prime Minister not realize that his actions speak louder than words?

• (1435)

The absence of the Minister of Industry at the announcement only creates the impression that the government considers Atlantic Canada, particularly Newfoundland, a region without economic hope. Why was the Minister of Industry not present at this announcement?

Hon. David Dingwall (Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member makes reference to the fact that the Minister of Industry was not in attendance. The hon. member should also say that the Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency was not in attendance either.

I want to assure the hon. member that in view of the commitments the Prime Minister has made and we made during the election campaign, each and every member of this cabinet, each and every member of this caucus, and each and every member of this party are firmly committed to assisting those who are in need, whether they be in the Atlantic region, in Quebec, western Canada or Ontario, to try to provide some economic assistance where possible.

* * *

[Translation]

ACTION PLAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, the youth program announced by the Minister of Human Resources Development a few days ago duplicates a number of programs that already exist in Quebec, including *Jeunes volontaires*, *Jeunes*