

*Oral Questions**[Translation]***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****INQUIRY WHO WILL ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES NOT REMAINING IN QUEBEC**

Mr. Arthur Portelance (Gamelin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. But first, I think it would be in order to congratulate him as well as his officials, the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and all the employees of the Department of Employment and Immigration for their magnificent performance over the weekend with regard to the transportation of the Vietnamese refugees who have now reached Canada. I should now like to ask the minister, knowing that Quebec will accept about 200 of those refugees and that it seems to be co-operating fully, what other areas of Canada will welcome the other refugees?

● (1452)

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I welcome, as obviously the House does, the opportunity to pass on to all concerned in this airlift and the previous activities involved the congratulations of members for a very first-class humanitarian job. I will see to it that the message from the House is conveyed to the officials concerned.

I do not know precisely which provinces are involved. There are at least six, and perhaps seven, but I will try to get more specific information. The last figures I saw show that approximately one-third would remain in the province of Quebec and the balance distributed across the country; but I shall get more specific information.

* * *

PENITENTIARIES**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES OF COLLINS BAY PENITENTIARY GUARDS KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY**

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. Could the minister assure the House that a complete investigation is being carried out into the tragic deaths of custodial officer Francis Eustace, and food services officer Paul Maurice at the Collins Bay penitentiary over the weekend?

Could he further assure the House that, while no monetary compensation can adequately compensate for this tragic loss of life, nevertheless arrangements will be made so that the bereaved families will not be in financial distress?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I am pleased that the hon. lady chose to present a motion under Standing Order 43 which permitted all members of the House to offer our condolences to the two families.

[Mr. Allmand.]

I would say, as well, to the hon. lady that she can rest assured there will be a complete investigation of the circumstances. I want to reassure her, as well as the staff of the Canadian Penitentiary Service, that in this instance we are considering an isolated incident in terms of security and there does not seem to be, at first-hand, any lapse in internal security. The circumstances would indicate, however, that the inmate concerned may have been under the influence of an intoxicant and, therefore, there is need for a complete investigation.

In terms of compensation for members of families, I might indicate there has been a great deal of interest shown both by the House and myself in finding adequate compensation so that members who are so affected are not left in a situation where they are at a loss financially as a result of unfortunate and tragic events.

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. Could the minister give the House a brief account of the circumstances leading up to this tragedy? Also, is he aware that the report of the subcommittee on penitentiaries, which was adopted unanimously by members of all parties on that subcommittee, came to his predecessor in office, and thus to him, as a package remedy for many of the incidents such as this one we are dealing with?

Can he tell the House whether the government intends to implement that report as a package? I realize that some recommendations have been implemented. When is the package going to be implemented, so that this kind of thing might be avoided in future?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the minister attempts to answer, I would say that I consider the question in the first part, an account of the circumstances, to be inappropriate in the question period because of the length of reply that would be required. The part about the committee report seems to be quite in order.

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the second part of the hon. gentleman's question, I might indicate that on Thursday of this week I will be appearing before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, at which time I will be tabling a further progress report on the implementation of the recommendation of the subcommittee.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I would invite the hon. member and all other members who are interested in this matter to attend the meeting and ask all questions they consider relevant.