

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, production has not begun in the sense that there has not been physical production of any parts of the aircraft. There has, however, been some continuing expenditure to keep together the engineering team that has been working on this program. I expect that if the contract is not completed Lockheed will look to the Government of Canada for payment of some part of those costs.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

PAKISTAN—POSITION ON PURCHASING NUCLEAR  
REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE AND ACCEPTING  
CANADIAN SAFEGUARDS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister tell the House if Pakistan intends to purchase a French nuclear reprocessing plant, and if Pakistan accepts the new Canadian safeguards requirements? Does that country accept that such safeguards will also apply to spent fuel emanating from the CANDU reactor in Pakistan?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, negotiations between Canada and Pakistan on safeguards have not yet been completed. They will not be completed, I understand, at this particular stage and will resume at a later date. To answer the first part of the question relating to the reprocessing plant, it is my second-hand information that Pakistan proposes to acquire a reprocessing plant in France.

PAKISTAN—CANADIAN POSITION ON SALE OF URANIUM

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I understand from what the minister said that negotiations have been suspended, presumably because of some deadlock. Does this mean, in part, that the Government of Canada has not negotiated a further sale of uranium to that country? For clarification, may I ask the minister if we have committed ourselves to selling more uranium to Pakistan in coming months?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we have not concluded the negotiations. We have not reached agreement on various points, but have made progress in the negotiations, which have not been primarily based upon additional sales of any type. We have not renewed any terms, at this stage, with regard to further supplies.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question? Since, as I understand, the five-year agreement entered into between Canada and Pakistan for the sale of uranium to supply the CANDU reactor in Pakistan has expired or is about to expire, are negotiations continuing for the supply of further fuel from Canada for that reactor; or, if not, does the minister understand that Pakistan is attempting to obtain uranium from some other country?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, Canada has been the supplier of fuel for the power reactor in Pakistan. As I mentioned to the hon. member last week, it is open to the Government of Canada to cease shipment. I have already described to the hon. member the effect of such a decision on the power situation and supply of electricity in Karachi. Canada has not taken a decision, at this stage, on that particular point.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE**

PROPOSED DEBATE ON DAIRY POLICY

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

In respect of the milk policy to be announced in April by the government, could the minister tell us whether the government he represents intends on its own initiative to allow a debate in the House so that members, especially those from the east and from Quebec, may express the views of producers who reside in their riding concerning problems this extremely important industry is faced with and those it will have to cope with in the future if the policy announced in November is to be applied?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the dairy farmers of Canada are coming to meet members of the parliament of Canada. Before we have a debate in the House I think members of parliament should talk directly to dairy farmers and discuss their problems with them. Then, if they feel it necessary to come to the House, I do not think there would be much wrong with that.

● (1420)

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question.

I do not wait for the minister's advice before meeting the people of my constituency, including producers. I did so many times. He could even take lessons on that subject, but I shall rather ask him if the government intends to allow a debate on its dairy policy, which concerns the eastern part of the country, since the same government gives so much consideration to western producers?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, the dairy policy concerns not only the dairy producers, but all the people of Canada. I am sure they are all concerned that we maintain a healthy, viable dairy industry in Canada. The world situation has been compounded because we have too many efficient producers. We do not have that much money for them to waste products and that is what they are doing. They are producing more than we consume or can sell.