

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED SALE BY FRANCE TO SOUTH KOREA OF PLUTONIUM SEPARATOR EQUIPMENT—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he has received an answer from the Canadian ambassador to Seoul to the question of whether the government of that country is negotiating the acquisition of a reprocessing or separation plant which can be used to manufacture plutonium? I ask this question as the minister told us that asking that question never occurred to him while he was in South Korea, but that he would ask the ambassador to ask the question.

● (1420)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did receive a reply to the inquiry which was transmitted on my behalf to the Korean foreign minister. The Korean foreign minister has informed us that the proposed facility, which I understand is to be secured from France, will be on a research scale and designed to establish technical capability for the reprocessing of spent fuel. I think this is an important subject and I would like to give all the details. He has explained that Korea views recycling spent fuel as a necessary element in the production of fuel through reactors in the years ahead. He has also said that Korea does not plan to process spent fuel from the CANDU reactor in the proposed research scale reprocessing facility. At the present time, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, we are working on a proposed intergovernmental safeguards agreement between Canada and Korea which, in any event, would provide for prior approval of the reprocessing of spent fuel from any Canadian supplied reactor. We are still in the process of negotiating that intergovernmental agreement.

SALE OF CANDU REACTORS—GOVERNMENT POLICY WITH REGARD TO ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it the policy of the government to require prior approval by the Department of External Affairs of those nations that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited intends to canvass for the sale of CANDU reactors or is it government policy to allow AECL to first come up with a customer and then worry about the political, military, diplomatic and safeguards implications once there is a real possibility of a CANDU sale?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. The general situation is that there is close consultation between the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and myself on all these matters at a very early stage. There is consultation at the beginning.

Oral Questions

SALE OF CANDU REACTORS—DIFFERENCE IN CONDITIONS OF AID-FINANCED SALES

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In the past few days the Secretary of State for External Affairs has stated that Canada has not laid down as a precondition to the sale of a CANDU reactor that the country has to be a member of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, but that in the case of aid-financed reactors, the question of the NPT will be a precondition. Will the Prime Minister explain why we have a double standard, one rule for the rich countries and another for the poor?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the intention of the government is clear in this rule, that is to get as many countries as possible to ratify the NPT treaty. When we can do that with persuasion, as I said I did in my European trip a couple of months ago, we do it by persuasion. When we do it by the way the hon. member indicated, by talking to proposed customers who want assistance with financing, we do it in that way.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

SUGGESTED RESIGNATION OF SOLICITOR GENERAL IN VIEW OF ALLEGED FAILURE TO ENFORCE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General.

Faced with increasing pressure from the Canadian people, and in view of the statement the minister has just made that he would resign his position should the death penalty be reinstated, could he make our joy complete by announcing his immediate resignation? This would permit the Canadian people to expect the appointment of a new Solicitor General who would really assume his responsibilities, so that the death penalty legislation which was adopted in 1972 would really be enforced in Canada.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SUGGESTION MINISTER ORDER NEW TRIAL FOR DR. MORGENTHAU—POSSIBILITY OF NEW TRIAL OR PARDON IN SUBSEQUENT PROSECUTIONS

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the change to the Criminal Code proposed by the minister in that acquittals by juries will no longer be able to be overturned by superior courts, in order to try to ensure conformity as between recent past and the proposed new future, will the minister order a new trial for Dr. Morgenthaler under Section 617(a) of the Criminal Code?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker. I answered that question before and I said that while I thought it best to put to rest the largely hysteric