

Routine Proceedings

It is important that members of the House understand this is not the case. Both the President and the Minister of Justice have advised that this is not the case. It is a most exceptional procedure and one that is used with the greatest of reluctance.

Also, my hon. friend refers to Christine's illness. The illness reported was swollen ankles. The doctor from the Consulate General in Sao Paulo attended upon her in the prison and is apparently assured that everything is okay.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has been employing every effort and I have been in personal touch with the new President of Brazil on the question of the appeal.

We have been informed that the attorneys for the parties apparently neglected to include a document which brought about a revision in the procedure itself irrespective of the appropriate efforts of the attorneys for the Government of Canada.

We would like to see the treaty concluded between Brazil and Canada as quickly as possible so that the two Canadians can then come to Canada, pursuant to the provisions of this treaty, and be dealt with in Canada under Canadian law. This would be, in our judgment anyway, much more humane and much more reasonable. We could deal with it much more expeditiously.

I will take just a second of the House's time to explain to my hon. friend that we are in close and ongoing contact with both families. We are deeply concerned about this matter. We are employing every effort on behalf of both individuals.

There are some 550 Canadians held in prisons around the world for various offences, in much the same way as Canadian penitentiaries house nationals from other countries today.

We are trying to operate within the law and to cause that law to be expedited in the interests of these two Canadians.

I want to give my friend and the House the assurance that we are employing every effort on behalf of Christine Lamont and David Spencer because we believe they are worthy of our attention and concern. We are giving this matter every effort that we possibly can.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I certainly think all Canadians appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister is undertaking to communicate with the new President of Brazil.

With respect to the issue of expulsion, the chief legal adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said to the justice committee: "The Brazilian Minister of Justice also said to us that he would be prepared to facilitate an expulsion if that were to come forward at the state-to-state level".

In view of the Prime Minister's undertaking and his personal interest in this case, will the Prime Minister now make the request at the state-to-state level for expulsion which, according to the legal adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, would be responded to positively?

Will the Prime Minister take that very important step on behalf of Christine Lamont and David Spencer?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the hon. member a letter sent to the chairman of the justice committee of this House which goes into some considerable detail on this legal procedure.

The Prime Minister has given an excellent answer to the question.

With regard to the expulsion procedure, it has not been said by our legal counsel that a state-to-state request will result in expulsion.

There is a great deal of detail in the letter. I would be happy to share it with the hon. member. It was a letter to the committee which I think now is public.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Pursuant to Standing Order 83(1) I wish to table a notice of a Ways and Means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act, the Access to Information Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Customs Act, the Federal Court Act, the Income Tax Act, the Tax Court of