

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

PASSAGE THROUGH CANADIAN WATERS BY UNITED STATES
SUBMARINES

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On May 6 last three nuclear-powered U.S. submarines surfaced at the North Pole. The only way we would have known if these submarines had travelled through Canadian waters was if the United States Government had asked permission for them to do so. Would the Secretary of State please tell us if these submarines passed through Canadian waters, and if they did so, did the Canadian Government give them permission to do so?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have a variety of ways of knowing of the presence in our waters of submarines from the United States or other countries. I do not think the Hon. Member would suggest that it would be in the interest of anyone, and certainly not in the Canadian national interest, to reveal publicly the nature of the means by which we come to that information.

The other thing I should point out is that with regard to our capacity to deal with and assert our sovereignty in northern Canada generally, as a result of 16 years of indifference and neglect by the former Government, when we came into office we were not as well prepared as we intend to become, but we are nonetheless in a position to have that kind of information to which the Hon. Member refers.

PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the Minister to disclose any secrets. This occurred last May 6. I am not asking about something that will happen tomorrow. Did the federal Government give permission to the United States Government for these U.S. submarines to pass through Arctic waters and, in doing so, do something to protect Canadian sovereignty in Arctic waters?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, once again, I do not propose to be drawn into the trap the Hon. Member is setting that would have the consequence of Canada identifying travel patterns of submarines of friendly countries in our waters. That is not in the interest of this country nor in the interest of our obligations. I will say that there are provisions in place that allow us to know the information and to assert and protect our sovereignty, and those provisions are respected.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

DEVELOPMENT OF MONTREAL REGION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether we should call the new Montreal International Airport "Dorbel" or "Miraval", but I have a question for the Minister of State for Transport about the non-solution he announced yesterday. My question is as follows: Can we expect the Greater Montreal area to continue to suffer economically, compared with the Toronto area, as a result of having two weak airports instead of one strong one?

My question is as follows: is the Greater Montreal area not going to remain economically depressed, compared with the Toronto area, for having two weak airports instead of one strong one?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, this particular solution was announced yesterday to remove, once and for all, the uncertainty about the future of Dorval and Mirabel, which was keeping back investors and preventing job creation.

If you look at the kind of investment we expect now that the mission of these airports has been clarified, you will see that 1,000 jobs can be created in the short term.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONCERNED PARTIES—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform the House how many jobs have been lost in the Montreal area, if we consider that the percentage of Canadian air traffic going through Montreal has dropped from 27 per cent to 14 per cent since Mirabel was opened? Why did the Government choose to ignore the advice of the City of Montreal, local municipalities and all economic sectors that it was necessary to have an airport at Dorval?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Transport)): The real reason why air traffic has dropped on certain routes to Montreal is the inconsistency of the policies of the previous Liberal Government. When the Liberal Government opened Mirabel, after spending half a billion dollars on its construction, it opened six gateways in Canada to intercontinental flights. That is where where the problem started. There, and nowhere else.

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[English]

TRADE

UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Yesterday the