

hon. gentleman make it clear to the President and to the leaders of other nations who share his views, that Canada will co-operate fully in the defence of human rights?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There is certainly enthusiasm on our part over the position which the President of the United States took at the United Nations yesterday. We regard the text of the human rights charter as a fundamental one.

Mr. Diefenbaker: And done nothing about it!

Mr. MacEachen: Just recently, at the UN Commission on Human Rights, we attempted to get a resolution debated calling for an independent international inquiry into the systematic killing in Uganda. That was turned down, or put aside, because of the unfortunate double standard in this field which exists throughout the world. We have also undertaken obligations under the Helsinki Final Act under which we have agreed to monitor each other on the performance with respect to the commitment made under that act. So the message of the President is quite in accordance with our policy and will be supported by us in the future as in the past.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PROPOSAL TO CANCEL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I thank the minister for his statement, but will he carry it a stage further? Will Canada undertake to co-ordinate with other countries the termination of assistance, whether direct or indirect, through national or international organizations, to countries which have been found consistently to breach basic human rights?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): That is a very large question indeed. I suppose every one of us could find that the cessation of food aid, for example, to impoverished countries is quite repugnant. Then there is the question of economic assistance; this was discussed recently by the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he posed the crucial question whether the installation of an irrigation system or a cement plant in a developing country helps the unemployed or the poor most, or whether it helps most a regime which might be unresponsive to the case for human rights. This is a very difficult question to answer but I believe the present circumstances of urgency attached to human rights leads us to examine our perception of this question, and that is what the Secretary of State for External Affairs undertook to do.

Oral Questions

POST OFFICE

SUGGESTION PROCEEDS FROM INTERNATIONAL SALES OF NEW TWELVE-CENT STAMP BE ALLOCATED TO PROTECTION OF EASTERN COUGAR

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. It concerns the beautiful new 12-cent stamp which depicts the eastern cougar—official name, *felis concolor*—only 100 of which are known to survive in North America outside Florida. Since the common practice of paying models for posing is not followed by the Post Office, has any consideration been given by the government to allocating the proceeds of the international sales of this stamp to the protection of this animal before it becomes extinct?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): I thank the hon. gentleman for calling the attention of Canadians to the fact that the Post Office has put out a new stamp depicting a member of this endangered species. His question affords me the opportunity of doing a little salesmanship with regard to that stamp. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, may I also thank him for offering me the opportunity of doing a bit of salesmanship with reference to that particular stamp. As well, I should like to indicate to him that I will take his particular suggestion into very serious consideration, and hopefully enough money will be generated from the sale of this stamp to give his suggestion some consequence.

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WILDLIFE

POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSING OF PERSONS KEEPING MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment may I direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. Does the parliamentary secretary know whether or not the minister is aware, or is he himself aware, that the Canadian Wildlife Service has decided, or is about to decide, to restrict further the licensing of persons who may keep migratory wild waterfowl in captivity?

Mr. Jim Fleming (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there are further restrictions planned in the future, though there have been some recently which might have prompted the hon. member's question. I do not know that under the Act there is a requirement for a licence to be held by someone who is going to have in his or her possession a bird that falls within the regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. I do not know of any immediate plans for further restrictions but I will check and report to the hon. member.

Mr. Halliday: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Given the parliamentary secretary's comments, does he know