

In the petition they state that the rights of society associated with the possession of handguns far outweigh any potential benefits derived from their possession.

This is a petition asking Parliament to ban the possession of handguns for private purposes.

[Translation]

GUN CONTROL

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am presenting a petition from all parts of Canada dealing with gun control, especially the banning of handguns for individuals.

This petition is further to the one from the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and is from the same source, namely Concordia University.

This petition also has 100,000 signatures and is for the same purpose, namely to ask the government to pass legislation forbidding anyone in Canadian territory to own a handgun, except for members of the Canadian Forces and peace officers in the performance of their duties.

[English]

SKOPJE

Mr. Ted McWhinney (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, on the anniversary of Greek independence, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 1,200 Canadian citizens of Greek ancestry from the Vancouver region.

They ask that the government refrain from recognizing the republic of Skopje within the former communist federal state of Yugoslavia until such time as it guarantees to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of existing states as established in the treaty of Bucharest of 1913 and the World War I and World War II peace treaties.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I would ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Also, due to a misunderstanding the minister for heritage was unavoidably detained and arrived late for the tabling of documents and statements by ministers. I am wondering if the House would give its consent to revert to tabling of documents and then to statements by ministers to allow the minister to make a statement.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Shall all questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Routine Proceedings

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): We are returning to statements by ministers.

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[Translation]

PARKS CANADA

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report entitled "Guiding Principles and Operational Policies for Parks Canada".

● (1020)

Following the tabling of this document, I will make a ministerial statement to inform members of this House of the government's vision regarding the future of national parks and historic sites, as well as the promotion and development of our identity and national heritage.

Madam Speaker, this is a special day for all Canadians. With the tabling of the Parks Canada "Guiding Principles and Operating Policies", yet another step is taken in entrenching and securing the national heritage of Canada.

It is a rare day in any democracy when a minister can table principles and policies for a nation in the full knowledge that two other colleagues now sitting on the side opposite have participated in their formulation.

I would like to acknowledge the roles played by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean, and the hon. member for Sherbrooke, now the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. To have such a consensus regarding a policy is a rare occurrence indeed.

[English]

As Canadians, we value our freedom, our clean environment, the beauty and natural wilderness and the paths of human endeavour which have brought us to where we are today. The sense of wonder and reverence we feel as we learn about past human activities that have laid the foundation of our country stimulate a profound concern for ensuring the survival of historic places, artefacts and structures.

Despite pressures on our environment and on our heritage resources Canadians should be assured that our national parks and national historic sites will be protected and well managed for future generations to enjoy. Our national parks and national historic sites will not be worn down or worn out through overuse or neglect.

Of course since the last policy statement in 1979 there has been a greater sense of urgency in the Canadian public on environmental, ecological and heritage matters. There has been a swell of public sentiment nationally and internationally creat-