

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
FROM INDIA

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in our Gallery of a parliamentary delegation from India led by the Honourable Mr. B. Shankaranand, Minister of Water Resources.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to believe that for two days following the release of the White Paper we have had neither the Minister of National Defence nor the Associate Minister of National Defence in the House to answer questions. Now we do not even have the Acting Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has had to remind Members in the past that undue comment about the absence of any Member, any Leader of a Party, or any cabinet Minister is not looked upon favourably in this place. The reason for that is that Members, cabinet Ministers and Leaders of Parties have to be elsewhere a good deal of the time doing the jobs which they must do. I ask the Hon. Member to put his question.

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday the Acting Defence Minister said that without Canadian nuclear subs in the Arctic we are inviting potential adversaries. He said that with them there would be no implied invitation but any intrusion would be an act of provocation.

Does the Deputy Prime Minister agree with the Acting Defence Minister that the presence of an American sub in Canada's Arctic would constitute an act of provocation?

Mr. Bud Bradley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether to thank the Hon. Member for the question or not. Surely he is not seriously trying to imply that an ally of our country would create provocation in our waters. Most certainly any activity of allied vessels would be in consultation with the Minister of National Defence.

The Arctic Ocean is not Canadian waters, and I assure the Hon. Member that our submarines—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bradley: The Arctic Ocean is not Canadian waters. The Canadian waters which are in the Arctic Ocean are within our

Oral Questions

territorial waters. Submarines can go in the Arctic without being in Canadian waters.

POSSIBLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMARINE CREWS

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Parliamentary Secretary. I asked this question yesterday. If the sovereignty issue in Canada's Arctic is essentially a legal question, what instructions will be given to the crews of Canada's nuclear-powered submarines in the event that they run into submarines from other powers in what we consider to be Canadian waters and they consider to be international waters? What are we asking our submarines to do in that event?

Mr. Bud Bradley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that question is certainly hypothetical. However, I am sure that if our submarines were in those waters and identified submarines of any other nation they would log the location, the time, and the character of the submarine, which information might be utilized in international courts in disputes over waters.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S ISSUANCE OF LICENCES TO DRILL IN
CANADIAN WATERS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. First we saw the spectacle of our northern cod stocks being sold out to the French. Now there is oil drilling in Canadian waters. I do not think the Deputy Prime Minister and the Government understand the serious nature of what is happening.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister, at least to indicate how serious this is, recall Ambassador Bouchard from France for consultations on this matter?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, that is a repetition of an earlier question. I have stated the Government's position which has also been stated by the Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I have outlined the actions that are being taken and I will keep the House informed of the actions taken and results of the meeting which I am sure the Prime Minister of France and the Prime Minister of Canada have had.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER BE CONTACTED AT VENICE
SUMMIT

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that. The Prime Minister is in Venice at the moment with the leader of France. We will excuse the Deputy Prime Minister from Question Period. He can go to his office, telephone to Venice, and tell