

REQUEST THAT TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING BE TABLED

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, the Minister says there is some confusion over facts. Some native groups claim that when they put forward the proposition which they claim was agreed to, at best what can be said for the federal Minister responsible, the Minister of Justice, is that he mumbled.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Murphy: That is the charitable position, that they do not know what he agreed to or disagreed with. In order to clear the air, will the Minister table in this House a transcript of what was said and what the Minister replied in those meetings?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, maybe the Hon. Member would like to take this up with the other Governments in Canada. This is not a position that the federal Government alone is advancing. All the Governments in Canada are agreed on this. Why does the Hon. Member not contact his own provincial Government and see what its position is on this?

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

REQUEST THAT MINISTER REPORT ON MEETING IN PORTUGAL

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The Minister of National Defence is at present attending a NATO meeting in Portugal where, according to UPI, United States Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger is "to consult the allies on controversial NATO plans to deploy United States Pershing II and Cruise missiles in December". Can the Prime Minister assure the House that, on his return, the Minister of National Defence will make a statement on motions to inform the House and the country what Canada's current position is on this very important subject?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I can certainly promise that the Minister will be making a statement to Cabinet. Whether a statement will be made to the House or not at that time is something that we will decide when the time comes. I think the Hon. Member realizes that, while this is being discussed in Portugal, it is also being discussed today in Ottawa with Vice-President Bush and his officials. It is this very subject that we discussed for a few hours this morning. I think that we are making great progress.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MAKE STATEMENT

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister will surely agree that the country is greatly puzzled over our position on this matter. He did not help matters very much yesterday when in an answer to a question he said:

—I would be repeating myself if I told the Vice-President that there had been no Cabinet agreement not to test the Cruise.

Oral Questions

If there is no agreement not to test the Cruise, one cannot be surprised at the Minister of Justice believing that there had been an agreement to test it, which he has maintained over the last year. I wonder if the Prime Minister might take the opportunity tomorrow, after his discussions with the Vice-President, to clarify this matter and make a statement on motions.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member heard me answer a like question to the Leader of the New Democratic Party five minutes ago. I put it to the Opposition that, if they think this matter is serious enough to warrant debate in the House, there are 13 Opposition days between now and the end of Supply in June. There will be some confidence votes in amongst those 13 days. If the Hon. Member's Party is really interested in having this question debated, I would think its Members would see their way clear to taking one of these days, during which the Minister of National Defence, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, or myself would be able to repeat our positions or state them as they then exist.

If there was a double negative in yesterday's quote, and I do not have *Hansard* before me, I think the meaning of it was clear, because I have said it many times. I repeated it this morning to Vice-President Bush, that there has been no Cabinet decision to test the Cruise. In fact, I have said before in this House that the United States have not yet asked us to test the Cruise. They asked us whether we would sign an umbrella agreement permitting the testing of weapons systems. The answer is yes, they have asked, and we have indeed signed such an agreement. I have made it clear that before we test the Cruise there will have to be a decision of Cabinet, which has not yet been made.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

LOSSES IN 1982

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport regarding the financial state of Canadian National Railways. The Minister knows that Canadian National recorded record losses in 1982 of \$223 million, and that \$62 million was lost as a result of an imprudent investment in Cast Shipping which was used to purchase six foreign vessels. Has Canadian National proposed a new financing of any kind or requested government financial assistance of any kind? I remind the Minister that the Government has bailed out CN on other occasions.

• (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I think, in talking about CN losses, one has to indicate that a certain number of these losses result from non-