

Oral Questions

not want to settle the question of ownership when they are the government which brought that question to the courts rather than continue negotiations.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that statement is just not consistent with the facts because it was his government which insisted on having this matter brought before the Federal Court on the SIU case, and that is what set off the breakdown in negotiations. The Prime Minister knows that to be a fact.

Now, Madam Speaker, the government of Newfoundland, supported by the people of Newfoundland, has agreed to a reasonable compromise proposal which would call for joint management and revenue sharing. That is a reasonable proposition, and I ask the Prime Minister if he is prepared to be reasonable—

Mr. Lalonde: That is what we offered.

Mr. McGrath:—because we cannot expect any reason from his Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is the Prime Minister prepared to be reasonable and say to the people of Newfoundland on the basis of that compromise proposal, which was accepted by the people of Newfoundland in a democratic election yesterday, that we are prepared to sit down and negotiate so that we can get on with the development of this resource not only for the people of Newfoundland, but for the people of Canada?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I really cannot accept the interpretation which the hon. member put on the SIU case, as though we had started a reference to the court. It is quite clear that for a decade we tried to reach a negotiated settlement. In very recent times the matter went to the courts in two ways: first, the SIU took it to the courts and raised an issue of ownership where the governments were dragged, if I may say, into that issue; second, the government of Newfoundland made a direct reference to the Appeal Court of Newfoundland.

Mr. McGrath: You brought it in the back door.

Mr. Trudeau: So how can the hon. member say that my statement is not in accord with the facts?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EL SALVADOR—ROLE OF COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As many of us feel it is very important to get a correct perspective of the tragic events now taking place in Central America,

especially El Salvador, and the role played by Socialist International with respect to these events, would the minister indicate if it is true that the general executive body of the communists in El Salvador, known as DRU, has a fighting arm called FMLN which co-ordinates guerrilla activities in that country, and that DRU in turn has been working with the Socialist International associated group of Mr. Ungo, known as MNR, under an umbrella organization known as FDR which presents a side of leftist terrorist activity designed to arouse world sympathy—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Stevens:—while it disguises the true nature of the Communist International infiltration?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: You don't know what you are talking about.

An hon. Member: Did you get the question, Mark?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am not—

Mr. Broadbent: He is out of his tree, Mark.

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, I am not sure I caught the whole of that alphabet—

An hon. Member: Alphabet soup.

Mr. MacGuigan:—but as I understand the situation, the Communist Party of El Salvador, PCES, is one of the constituent parts of both the military and civilian grouping of rebel parties which together make up the DRU. So the DRU is not only communist, it includes communists—

An hon. Member: Christian Democrats.

Mr. Broadbent: And Conservatives.

Mr. MacGuigan:—on both the military and civil side. One of the groups which is part of DRU is the Socialist Party of El Salvador headed by Mr. Ungo—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: No, Ed Broadbent.

Mr. MacGuigan:—which I believe is reported to have only 30 to 40 members. It is that party which is a member of the Socialist International.

ROLE OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, is the minister aware that the guerrillas, who are now co-ordinated under FMLN, which is associated with DRU, have estimated they themselves are responsible for the deaths of some 5,000 people in the past two years, and has he been informed that last September the Socialist International in Paris spoke