

RCMP, including internal investigations and other appropriate mechanisms put in place by this government.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for External Relations.

A young Canadian woman was arrested by the army this morning in a church in San Salvador, and with her, three American nuns.

What has the Government done to obtain the release of this young Canadian woman?

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the arrest to which the Leader of the Opposition referred.

Last week, we made representations when the Lutheran minister was arrested. Today, we have people down there who will meet the authorities to ensure that the young woman is released as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I may add that a number of Canadians are over there at the present time. Last week, they were all asked by the honorary consul to stay inside, not take any risks and, if possible, return to Canada.

We are monitoring the situation very closely, and we are, of course, very concerned about what is happening in San Salvador.

• (1430)

[*English*]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, as the minister and as all other observers will have noted, the situation in San Salvador is getting worse, not better. The death squads continue to act with impunity. The Government of Spain, as I understand it, has now withdrawn its ambassador. The Attorney General of San Salvador in effect signed death notices for a couple of bishops last night when he went on television. He warned them to get out of the country.

Oral Questions

Considering that the situation is getting worse, not better and that the death squads are, I repeat, acting with impunity, will the Canadian Government now use its newly established membership in the OAS to directly urge the United States Government to cease military assistance to the government in El Salvador?

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, we are of course very concerned about what is happening at this time in El Salvador. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out last week, we are applying all possible pressure to stop this carnage so that peace talks may be resumed.

We were relieved to hear that the Secretary General of the OAS arrived in El Salvador yesterday. Canada's official representative had a meeting with the Secretary General, and we are of course looking at every possible means of getting the parties to at least accept a cease-fire, so that we can help the people who have been affected by the present fighting.

We will continue to apply pressure, and as the Hon. Member mentioned, we will use our new position within the OAS, to try and make the carnage stop and have peace talks resume as soon as possible.

[*English*]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, as the minister will know, Senator Kerry from Massachusetts in the United States has already said that American weapons are being used to kill innocent people. He, as an American, has called for the cessation of using such weapons for such horrific purposes. I repeat again and ask the minister: Since one of the criticisms made of our government in the past about membership in the OAS was that it would not use its independence but would always follow whatever was decided in Washington, and given the facts that most observers believe to be facts, that the government is sanctioning right-wing death-squad activity against innocent people, will the government now ask the American government to cease providing weapons to the government in El Salvador?

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Landry: Mr. Speaker, this government has its own policy and has always reacted very quickly to try to