

TRADE

COD EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, after talks with the EEC Trade Commissioner, the Minister for International Trade said: "As a result of that trawler problem, we are having a problem on cod with the EEC. They are blocking the sale of our headless cod". Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs inform the House on the accuracy of the Minister's statement, since the EEC denied today having taken any such action against our headless cod? Perhaps it is the Minister who has lost his head.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have been making representations to the European Community in respect to the question of cod for some time. We are continuing those representations. There is no doubt at all that the incident with regard to the Spanish trawlers has aggravated the sense of relations between Canada and the European Community *en gros* in respect of fisheries issues, including the cod issue.

• (1430)

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, if the EEC moves to block any of Canada's cod exports to EEC member countries, will the Government take the logical action and cancel the entire EEC cod-fishing quota in Canadian waters?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member I can tell him that we have at this point no evidence that the EEC is blocking the importation of cod from Atlantic Canada, nor under the rules of GATT would it be able to do so. I can only say to the Hon. Member that if he is suggesting we should not enforce our Canadian fishing zone to the extent of the 200 mile limit then he should go home and say that to the people of his province.

Mr. Gauthier: That is a red herring.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST FOR EMBARGO ON AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who, as did I, heard Bishop Tutu on Friday night making an urgent plea for help for white and black South

Oral Questions

Africans, a plea for help which is supported by tens of thousands of Canadians and the NAC delegates meeting here today. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has said that Canada has inspired others to invoke sanctions. Is it not time for inspiration again by immediately imposing an embargo on agricultural shipments into Canada that the rest of the Commonwealth will emulate?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, indeed one clear lesson that was taught us in the context of the Commonwealth years ago in 1979, when the question of Zimbabwe was resolved, was that if there is a chance for the Commonwealth to act together it is in the interests of the world that we build toward that common action, and not resort simply to individual actions by states that others might not follow. We are trying to ensure that the Commonwealth can be effective in 1986 as the Commonwealth was effective in 1979. It may not work, but we want to give it a chance to work before Canada takes independent actions that would undercut the agreement to which we subscribed at Nassau.

CANADIAN LEADERSHIP

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, may we have the assurance of the Secretary of State for External Affairs that it will be our standard of leadership that applies, not the kind of leadership that is implied by an agreement with Great Britain not to act in advance of August, and to have another meeting next year sometime, while people are dying in Africa? We should be taking decisive action which would be a model for the Commonwealth.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the agreement at Nassau was not with Great Britain alone. The agreement at Nassau was with all the members of the Commonwealth. Canada, India, and Australia were instrumental in establishing that agreement at Nassau. We intend to honour it as the best means of ensuring that the Commonwealth might be able to move effectively in the future. Obviously that would require some movement on the part of the Government of Great Britain, as it would on the part of other countries.

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COD EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. We have just had a statement by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans that there is no evidence there is any problem at all with the EEC in relation to the cod fishery, yet the Minister for International Trade has said that, as a result of the trawler problem, we are having a problem with the EEC on cod. Do you think the Deputy Prime Minister might arrange a meeting