

meeting at my house at 24 Sussex on October 13. They are taking some time to get around to signing some of the agreements, but the important thing is that the program is in place, the Anti-Inflation Board is operating, and inflation is being tackled in a most serious way.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PAKISTAN—SAFEGUARDS FOR SPENT FUEL FROM CANDU REACTOR

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the House yesterday with reference to negotiations that are going on between Canada and Pakistan concerning nuclear safeguards, the minister said:

What is of concern to Canada . . . is the spent fuel that comes out of the Canadian reactor and that may subsequently be reprocessed in the facility provided by France.

I should like to ask the minister now whether he will assure the House that no further shipments of uranium from Canada to Pakistan will take place unless Pakistan accepts the point that Canadian safeguards apply not merely to the CANDU reactor provided by Canada but also to the use of spent fuel from the Canadian reactor now in Pakistan.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations between the Canadian team and the Pakistani team are still underway. I had a detailed report this morning about the progress that has been made, and of course one of the items still under negotiations is the very point that the hon. member has raised this morning and to which I referred yesterday. The hon. member is suggesting that Canada withhold its supplies of uranium or fuel to Pakistan in order—

Mr. Broadbent: Unless you get that guarantee.

Mr. MacEachen: —in order to bring Pakistan to the point of cancelling a contract which, I understand, has been entered into with the French government. That is a possibility, but I think the hon. member should understand the implications for Pakistan if Canada at this point withdrew its fuel from the CANDU power reactor and cut off the supply of electricity for the city of Karachi. I believe that is a step which the hon. member and I would like to ponder very carefully before it is taken.

Mr. Broadbent: Notwithstanding the legitimate concern which the minister expressed about the power situation for the city of Karachi, I should like to ask the minister the following question. Given, to say the least, the equal concern from the point of view of everyone in the world to stop the development of nuclear weapons, would the minister not agree that unless we get the most stringent guarantees from the government of Pakistan which would totally inhibit the use of Canadian-provided material for the development of nuclear weapons, we should not proceed in any way with further shipments of uranium material to that country?

Oral Questions

● (1120)

Mr. MacEachen: Well, the hon. member understands that there is presently in Pakistan the Canadian supplied power reactor. At the time that reactor was put in place certain safeguards were negotiated between Canada and Pakistan, and at this point the purpose of the Canadian effort is to upgrade existing safeguard agreements which were previously entered into between Canada and Pakistan affecting that particular installation. We are doing our level best, and I believe we will make considerable progress in upgrading those safeguards.

I believe the hon. member should bear in mind as well that, as I understand it, there has been a safeguards agreement negotiated between France and Pakistan relating to the processing plant. These safeguards are of London Club quality and have been approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency, so that processing plant is actually safeguarded under internationally approved standards.

Mr. Stanfield: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: The hon. member for Halifax grumbles, but that is a fact, and it is a very important fact which has to be taken into account. Canada is not supplying the reprocessing plant to Pakistan.

Mr. Broadbent: Considering that the minister has been quoted as saying that the safeguards agreed to by a number of countries in London were in fact lower than the safeguards expected by the Government of Canada, I should like to ask the minister whether he is now saying that the Government of Canada is prepared to accept what I understand to be the Pakistani position, namely, that the safeguards expected by the Government of Canada for Canadian provided facilities will not be applied to facilities provided by another country, even if that means that those facilities are going to be using spent fuel provided originally by Canada and processed on the Canadian reactor in Pakistan.

Mr. MacEachen: The hon. member has rather ambitious plans for Canada in that he expects Canada to direct the nature of an agreement between two other countries, in this case between Pakistan and France. I believe that is quite a silly proposal made by the leader of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Broadbent: That is nonsense.

Mr. MacEachen: The question which is relevant, and which the hon. member has raised, is the safeguards with respect to the Canadian reactor which is presently in Pakistan. It is with respect to that reactor—

Mr. Broadbent: And the use of fuel.

Mr. MacEachen: And the use of fuel. I heard the words of the hon. member, and I will probably return to those words at a future time when it will be appropriate. It is on that point that negotiations are currently under way, and at the moment we are considering what our total approach will be depending upon the results of these negotiations. With regard to Pakistan, we are insisting on the highest possible safeguards. However, please do not ask Canada to