

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; the motion cannot be put.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
**SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—POSSIBLE
SUSPENSION OF SALE—ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE
PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who yesterday indicated that the political and military situation in South Korea today did not warrant a change in the position of the government with regard to the sale of the CANDU reactor. In the face of growing concern about possible renewed military conflict in Korea, is the government prepared to suspend the CANDU sale independently of what kind of assurances can be negotiated on a bilateral basis?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Will the minister tell the House just what safeguards the government is proposing to South Korea, and will he admit that while arrangements may be made which will provide adequate inspection, these arrangements will provide no means of preventing South Korea from using, for non-peaceful purposes, plutonium and techniques provided by Canada?

Mr. MacEachen: As I mentioned yesterday, the safeguards which are provided for in the case of South Korea, in a sense, fall into two categories. The ratification of the non-proliferation Treaty by South Korea which stipulates that the total nuclear system of the country will be subjected to international inspection under the international agency. Second, we are negotiating a bilateral agreement with South Korea putting into effect the total range of safeguards which were announced by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I believe, last December 20. This is the most complete possible range of safeguards available at the present time. The diversion of plutonium or material for non-peaceful purposes is, of course, subject to the examination and inspection system of the international agency, and I am sure it is clear to the Leader of the Opposition that if that occurred, it would be instantly known to the international inspectors.

Obviously a new situation would be created at that point in which the international community would be alerted to this diversion which might be taking place. That is about the best answer I can give to the hon. member, and in reply to the hon. member for Calgary North, it is the best the international community has devised up to the present time. Perhaps the hon. member will be able to improve it at a later date.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—PROPOSED
DEBATE ON SALE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): The Secretary of State for External Affairs has, in effect, conceded that the government of Canada does not contemplate making any arrangements with South Korea which would prevent South Korea from using plutonium and techniques for other than peaceful purposes. All these measures would do would be to assure that this arrangement would become known if the government did that. I put it to the Prime Minister, in light of what took place in India and in light of the moral responsibility that any government has in a field like this, is the government of Canada prepared to proceed with the sale of CANDU reactors in these circumstances with no way of preventing the use of such techniques and plutonium for non-peaceful purposes? Why will the Prime Minister not put this whole matter before the House and the country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will gladly put the whole matter in front of the House and the country. Here again, there are seven opposition days before the end of the month and if hon. members find this important enough I will gladly undertake to have all our side participate in debate. I will gladly join in it myself. I think there is a very serious moral problem which is raised by the Leader of the Opposition but there are two sides to it. The other side is whether we can sit on this technology and not share it with the developing countries who have no energy—

Mr. Fairweather: South Korea?

Mr. Trudeau:—and who have an extremely low standard of living. No, I am not talking about South Korea; I am talking about the moral problem of sitting on our technology or sharing it and the rules for sharing it which will be the same whether it is South Korea or an advanced country or a developing country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Leggatt: Then why not give it away?

Mr. Trudeau: These rules that Canada is announcing unilaterally, which were announced by the minister, are the most strict rules of any of the members of the international community.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I have personally been raising this subject with every nuclear country or near-nuclear country I have been visiting, asking them to be as strict as we are so that if the hypothesis that is feared by the opposition does occur and we have to cut off our co-operation, then the country that is cut off will not turn around and get it from some other country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!