

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PAYMENT FOR BOMB DAMAGE TO
YUGOSLAV PROPERTIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister regarding the unfortunate bombing of the Yugoslav embassy in Ottawa and the Yugoslav consulate in Toronto. In view of the fact that the United States authorities have announced that they propose to pay for any damage done to these properties, will Canada be paying for the damage done in this country and will payment extend to the buildings in the immediate vicinity which have also been damaged more or less severely?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in view of the nature of the question perhaps I will be permitted to give a longer answer dealing with one or two other aspects of the unfortunate incident mentioned by the hon. member.

The explosions in Ottawa and Toronto are being investigated by the Ottawa and Toronto police in co-operation with the R.C.M.P., and I have already seen a preliminary report. There is every reason to believe that in both cities this was a terrorist act. It is our hope and determination to do everything we can to ensure that those responsible will be apprehended. There has been obvious international co-ordination and Interpol has therefore been consulted.

We shall do our utmost to ensure that these atrocious incidents do not affect adversely the relations between Canada and Yugoslavia, and we have assured the chargé d'affaires of Yugoslavia of this. Our deep regret that such senseless acts could have occurred has been conveyed to the Yugoslav government both in Ottawa and by our ambassador in Belgrade.

As host country Canada is under an international obligation to protect foreign embassies and other official premises in Canada. Yugoslavia of course recognizes a similar obligation with regard to Canadian premises there. It goes without saying that Canada accepts and honours its obligations under international law and practice with regard to the protection of foreign representatives and compensation for damages to official premises.

The hon. gentleman has raised another question, namely the obligation if any which

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attaches to the government in respect of damages to adjoining property. Before replying I should like to look into that aspect of the question.

NATIONAL SECURITY

CALVIN MACDONALD—APPEARANCE BEFORE
ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Calvin Macdonald has been told he can testify before the commission on national security in order to clarify his case. However, he has stated that he was asked to keep a file on Hon. M. J. Coldwell, who is at present a member of that commission, and this charge has never been refuted either by the government or the R.C.M.P. Does the government plan to replace Commissioner Coldwell, since he might be involved in the case, or does it intend to give Mr. Macdonald a private hearing as was done in the Spencer case?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I said the other day, Mr. Macdonald has made representations to the commission either verbally or in writing, followed by an appearance. These hearings, if they dealt with security matters, would have been held in camera. Mr. Coldwell is an important member of the commission and there is no intention to interfere with his membership on the commission.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does this not come into conflict with the principles which were laid down long ago in the Magna Carta, and does it not put the two parties in a very peculiar situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope we will not have to settle this question this afternoon.

PRESENCE IN CANADA OF PERSON EXPELLED
AS SECURITY RISK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister or to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it a fact that approximately five years ago one E. Ritzig was asked to leave Canada because he was a security risk? Is the government aware that at the present time this same E. Ritzig is back in