

## DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND CHINA

**Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Recognizing her courage in tackling the true root problem, that is, the political reality, would she agree that the political problem is larger in that China, in fact, had an opportunity to reduce the murders of Pol Pot and failed to do so, and at the present time China continues to work on the side of Pol Pot; and that, similarly, the Soviet Union—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member putting a question?

**Mr. Wenman:** Specifically, has the minister approached the Soviet Union or China relative to their politics in this situation?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this matter at the United Nations and at Geneva both with representatives of the Soviet Union and representatives of the government of China. Our efforts will not be limited just to speaking in this regard. Where our efforts primarily now have to be directed, if I may say so, is to providing help and relief to the government of Thailand which is having to absorb so many hundreds of thousands of people who have been expelled from both Cambodia and Laos.

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## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

DATA PROCESSING OF CANADIAN BUSINESS BY U.S. FIRMS—  
EFFECT ON ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I should like to ask him if he is aware of the dangerous trend developing in this country, whereby Canadian businesses have their data processing increasingly handled by United States' firms, thereby undermining Canadian economic sovereignty and privacy as well as employment opportunities in Canada. If he is aware of this trend, does the government intend to introduce legislation requiring that data processing related to Canadian business operations be performed in this country by Canadian-owned firms?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for raising a question of importance and concern to the government. The Minister of Communications has already had meetings on the matter. We are, naturally, not yet at a stage where we can indicate what the result of those meetings will be, but the matter is one of concern to us and one that is being pursued by the minister.

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## FISHERIES

DEPLETION OF SALMON STOCKS—MEETINGS WITH ICNAF  
REPRESENTATIVES

**Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In 1972, the hon. Jack Davis, the then minister of fisheries, announced the closing of commercial fishing for salmon to allow this fish to ascend the freshwater streams of the Atlantic to spawn. After seven years of this program, which has cost some \$15 million to Canadians, there have been fewer salmon ascending the rivers this year than ever before. Could the minister advise the House whether he is aware of the situation, whether he or his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, have had discussions about this with the countries of the North Atlantic, especially Iceland, and whether the minister has met with provincial representatives of eastern Canada to set up a program to ensure the survival of this anadromous species?

[English]

**Hon. James A. McGrath (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation and, indeed, I share the hon. member's concern. In an expression of that concern, I convened a meeting in the late summer with the fisheries ministers of Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. We were unanimous in our agreement that there was great concern over the future of the Atlantic salmon part of our national heritage. To that end, I put into effect a number of consultative measures at the officials' level which will be brought out in a statement which I hope to make to the House in the next short while announcing a new Atlantic salmon policy.

With regard to the international aspect of the hon. member's question, I agree with him that this is an area of concern. As he knows, there was a limit placed by ICNAF on the catch off Greenland. We believe that the limit, or TAC, is still too high and, indeed, we are pursuing an international convention in that regard. I am sure the hon. member would not want me to prejudice Canada's position by going any further at this time.

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[Translation]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF COMMON POSITION WITH COMMONWEALTH  
COUNTRIES ON IRANIAN CRISIS

**Mr. Charles Lapointe (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In an earlier reply, the right hon. Prime Minister indicated that he would try to find a way to convince the other Commonwealth countries and our friends among Francophone countries to assume a common front with respect to the crisis in Iran. Could the hon. minister advise the House whether she