

## PROTECTION OF PRISONERS IN SOUTH AFRICAN JAILS

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister another question with regard to taking initiatives. We are all shocked by the imprisonment of thousands of people in South Africa and mindful that many political prisoners have died in those jails previously. Has Canada taken the lead to have a Commonwealth commission or international commission established to visit South African jails to help protect the prisoners and ensure that they are afforded proper treatment while imprisoned there, so that their lives will not be in danger?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the initiatives which Canada has taken have been outlined by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister. They surely do not need to be repeated. Canada has taken the lead, as has no other Government in the history of this country, in response to the South African situation in the hope that it might serve as an example which other nations will follow. However, not content to leave it at that, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said that there is a whole range of options yet available which will be used if necessary.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, the Government has made no statement about what it intends to do to protect the human rights of those who have been imprisoned.

## CANADIAN FIRMS CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** I would like to ask a final supplementary question about the actions taken. The Government has said that it is prepared to impose further economic sanctions. There are Canadian firms still doing business in South Africa or investing there. Does the Government plan to put together an effective contingency plan for the ceasing of their operations in South Africa at a time when the Government decides it must take that step?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows that some initiatives have been taken in that direction already by the Government. With respect to the announcement concerning tourism advertising, we saw on television last night that one of the larger networks in the country has voluntarily complied with that measure. Yes, indeed, those initiatives are also being taken by the Government.

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## SPACE DEVELOPMENT

## SATELLITE SENSOR SYSTEM PROJECT

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence and is on the subject of Teale Ruby. The

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Minister knows that the stated Government policy is that there will be no government involvement in Star Wars. Yet knowledgeable people in the United States and Canada have said that the Government of Canada is an active participant in the development of a satellite sensor system known as Teale Ruby. Will the Minister now cease and desist any activity by the Government of Canada in this project, Teale Ruby?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Teale Ruby project commenced in co-operation between the United States and Canada in 1980. I believe the Hon. Member was a member of the Government which initiated that co-operation. We see no reason to cancel it now.

● (1420)

## REQUEST THAT CANADA CANCEL PARTICIPATION

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, I have here a report to Congress on the Strategic Defence Initiative which lists Teale Ruby as part of the Star Wars program. Will the Minister, now that he is the Minister acting on behalf of the Government, take his responsibilities seriously and cease this activity in Teale Ruby?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence):** We think it is in Canada's interest, Mr. Speaker, to be up to date on the latest technology, including satellite observation. We think there is enormous potential for good use of this technology in Canada in keeping our North under observation, tracking down airplanes, both civilian and, in the event of a war situation, military. In our view it would be rather foolish to take the move the Hon. Member is suggesting.

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## APARTHEID

## SOUTH AFRICA—ANNIVERSARY OF SOWETO MASSACRE

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. As he well knows, on the 10th anniversary of the Soweto Massacre the South African Government has achieved new levels of repression. This oppression is now hidden from world view because of controls on the press. What precisely is the Government saying to the Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States and West Germany which would convince them to place the freedom of South African blacks ahead of their strategic and economic interests?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** I think there is no difference between what the hon. gentleman would say to those countries and what this Government is saying to those countries. It is just a question of the approach. We happen to believe that the more prudent approach being followed now is going to produce far more