

## TRANSPORT

### DESTAFFING OF LIGHTSTATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA— ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Pat Carney:** Honourable senators, my question is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

First, I wish to explain that when I rose last week to inquire about an issue in Quebec concerning Canadian pilots flying into Mirabel from Canadian cities and having to go through Canadian customs, the issue was resolved within 48 hours. I am hoping that the following issue will be resolved within the same time frame.

In view of the adamant opposition to destaffing B.C. lightstations because it will put people's lives at risk, can the minister ascertain whether environmental impact assessments were carried out and human safety issues addressed before bureaucrats, in their scorched-earth policy, burned down the houses and buildings at Cape St. James in the Queen Charlotte Islands? If such environmental assessments have been done, as required by law under the EARP guidelines, would the minister make the documentation available?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I will take my honourable friend's questions to the minister and attempt to get a response as quickly as possible.

## BOSNIA

### CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF PEACEKEEPING MISSION— VISIT OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Gerald R. Ottenheimer:** Honourable senators, as the Honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate is no doubt aware, United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, went to Sarajevo yesterday with the intention of presenting what have been described as rock-bottom conditions for the continuation of the UN mission in Bosnia. My question is this: Does the Government of Canada know whether, in fact, the Secretary-General had an opportunity to present these rock-bottom conditions and, if so, to whom? Does Canada know what the conditions are? Does Canada approve of these conditions?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I thank the Honourable Senator Ottenheimer for his question. I shall have to obtain full details on the matter to which he has referred. As the honourable senator knows, the visit of Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali did not accomplish what he had hoped for. His visit has been described as perhaps a useful step in the diplomatic process.

The Canadian government's position remains clear, that this dispute or this war be resolved through negotiation. The Prime Minister has been outspoken in his view of the current situation. In the view of the government, the current situation is much more than a disappointment. It is unacceptable that Canada, having played such a strong role in attempting to find a solution to this conflict, should not be part of the contact group as it currently exists.

As my friend will know, the Prime Minister will visit Belgrade at the end of this week. There will be, I am sure, serious and spirited discussion among the countries represented there on the best possible course of action.

Honourable senators, the government remains clear in its view that there should be no lifting of the arms embargo. The Prime Minister will be engaging in talks with representatives of the French government, if he has not already done so during his visit to France, and representatives of the other partner countries on the ground in Bosnia.

**Senator Ottenheimer:** Honourable senators, when the honourable minister has had an opportunity to ascertain whether Canada knows the current conditions and whether Canada specifically approves of them, will she give consideration to informing the Senate specifically of those conditions? No one would wish the honourable minister to reveal anything that would endanger the security of our troops or anyone else. That is a consideration, but to what extent it is a factor, I do not know. The government is in a much better position to know.

Honourable senators, there is also the consideration of greater transparency in matters of defence policy. These are things that obviously the honourable leader would have to weigh in making a decision to inform the Senate of the conditions.

**Senator Fairbairn:** Senator Ottenheimer, I will talk to my colleagues, particularly the Minister of National Defence. I will speak as well to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will be back in Canada next week, I believe. As you know, he has been in Russia discussing this issue with the foreign minister there. I shall attempt to get the fullest possible information under the constraints of the consideration my honourable friend has outlined.

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### PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT— CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

**Hon. Finlay MacDonald:** Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Yesterday, I received a response to the questions I put to the honourable leader on November 15 and November 24. She will recall that the Minister of Transport said that before handing over Pearson International Airport to the new Canadian Airport Authority, Ottawa must wait until Parliament had passed Bill C-22. I asked for the reasons why.

This is the reply as printed on page 1012 of the *Debates of the Senate* of yesterday.

At this time, there exists a lease agreement between the federal government and T1T2 Development Corporation. Succinctly, there cannot be a second lease concluded for the same property to two different entities.

On November 24, I quoted a letter dated September 20 from the chairman of the Pearson Development Corporation, a letter he wrote to every member of Parliament in which he said: