

On April 1, 1993, Nova Scotia and Canada entered into the Strategic Highway Improvement Program agreement. The agreement was for a \$140 million, 50-50 cost-shared program covering the period to March 1997. Of this amount, \$118.8 million was allocated to additional projects on Highway 104, including \$55 million to start the construction of the Wentworth Valley by-pass between Thomson Road and Masstown. This was the first time that the Wentworth Valley segment was included in a federal-provincial agreement.

None of the highway funding agreements entered into since 1987 have made reference to the finalization of any specific project. Instead, the agreements have, in several cases, provided only enough funding to get a project underway and it has always been mutually understood that the province has the responsibility to determine when a project will be completed and how completion will be financed.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS CONDITION OF CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Pierre Claude Nolin on June 5, 1995)

NATO is a community of common values and principles. Indeed, the Washington treaty describes its members as “determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.”

Any country invited to join the Alliance should share these values. A democratic system based on the rule of law, the civilian control of the armed forces, and respect for human rights, including respect for minority rights, would constitute, in the eyes of NATO, members’ pre-conditions to accession to the Alliance. Canada, like other members, recognizes the great importance of the respect of human rights.

Regarding the situation in Turkey, Canada undertook several steps concerning the situation of human rights in that country. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. André Ouellet, raised this question during his meeting with his Turkish counterpart last May. Canadian representatives have raised this issue with Turkish authorities on every

appropriate occasion. The Canadian Embassy in Ankara is in regular contact with Turkish organizations active in the promotion of human rights. On each occasion, Canada underlined its great concern regarding the human rights situation in Turkey. Canada believes that it is important to pursue a dialogue with Turkish authorities in order to set them on track towards reform in this area.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

REFUSAL OF AIRLINES TO NEGOTIATE DISCOUNTS WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

(Response to question raised by Hon. Senator Richard J. Doyle on June 6, 1995)

The Director of Investigation and Research is responsible for the administration and the enforcement of the Competition Act, and he examines all matters brought to his attention to determine if they raise issues under the Act. According to available information, the Director is examining this matter.

If the facts reveal the existence of activities contrary to the provisions of the Act, the Director will take the appropriate action.

In October 1994, the House Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs formed the Subcommittee on Members Travel. Air Canada and Canadian Airlines appeared before the Subcommittee and the Subcommittee filed its report with the Standing Committee last March. The question is whether by refusing to offer discounts to Members of Parliament, the two Airlines may be contravening the Competition Act. The Director is aware of the situation and is reviewing it in relation to the provisions of the Act.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

EFFECT OF ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT ON INTERNAL TRADE IMPLEMENTATION BILL ON INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Senator Fernand Roberge on June 7, 1995)

Amendments to Bill C-88 to clarify the intent of the legislation will be introduced at the appropriate time.