

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY**

**CLAIM BY U.S. TO INTER-ISLAND WATERS  
 OF ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Would the right hon. gentleman inform the house whether the United States has laid claim to the waters between the islands in the northern archipelago, and whether discussions are going on between officials of the United States and Canadian governments with respect to the sovereignty of these waters?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of a claim to those waters by the United States government, nor indeed of any other claim apart from that of the Canadian government. I made a statement last week about the whole position of Canada in the Arctic and I indicated of course that claims established by previous Canadian governments over certain aspects of the waters were not recognized by all states. It is this aspect of the policy which we wish to study further in preparation for negotiations. However, we are certainly not neglecting to consider the practical question of whether it will eventually be in Canada's interest to have these waters declared Canadian internal waters, rather than to encourage their use for commercial purposes.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the Prime Minister said in his statement that Canada's sovereignty over the waters in question was not admitted by all states, did he refer specifically to the United States or were governments of any other countries laying claim to them; and if no country has laid claim to these waters would the Prime Minister inform the house how he is able to say that all countries do not accept Canada's declaration of sovereignty?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It seems to me that the third question is a little too far out. I think the first and second questions might be in order. Perhaps the Prime Minister might want to answer them.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I do not wish in any way to give publicity to our claims which may be contrary to Canada's long term interest. I think it is of general knowledge that not all seafaring nations are anxious to have such vast areas of ocean claimed by any one state. This is obvious in the case of the two other large archipelagos of the world, and we have  
 [Mr. Basford.]

been given notice that this would be the position of certain countries with regard to the Canadian archipelago in the north. However I repeat that I do not think it would be in the best interests of Canada to give any publicity to our claims until we ourselves are in a position either to substantiate them with even greater force, or alternatively to withdraw them if it is in Canada's interest to do so.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Without indicating what other governments are involved, can the Prime Minister inform the house whether there are currently discussions on this issue among governments of nations, including the government of Canada, and have they been going on for some time?

**Mr. Trudeau:** My answer is yes, discussions are going on with regard to the general proposition of closing such archipelagos. Some nations have laid claim to them and other nations, which claim that these waters are part of international trading lanes, are contesting them. This is the type of general exchange that is going on. However may I repeat that I do not think it would be useful to be more precise in the case of Canadian claims. I can tell hon. members that there has been a lack of recognition of Canadian claims by important nations, either stated verbally or in writing.

[Translation]

**NATIONAL PARKS**

**GASPÉ—AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
 PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL  
 AUTHORITIES**

**Mr. André Fortin (Loitbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Can he tell the house whether an agreement has been reached between the Ottawa and Quebec governments on the development of a federal park at Pointe-Forillon, in Gaspé and, if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I hope that such a question will not be asked every day. I have the feeling that the hon. members put the same question forward almost daily. Anyway, the minister seems ready to answer the question of the hon. member for Loitbinière today, and I shall allow it.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr.