

Oral Questions

must say that I share the astonishment of the Leader of the Opposition. He is quoting a senior officer of the State Department as having said that. I do not know the implication of that. I do not know the impact of that. I just know that the United States apparently chose not to consult Canada, not to consult Britain and, presumably, not to consult France either, although I do know for a fact that the eastern Caribbean countries had agreed among themselves that Canada should be consulted. Something apparently happened in the urgency to act that they did not consult us.

There was a communication to Canada at seven o'clock or 7.30 on Monday evening—apparently the same kind of communication went to Great Britain—where we learned that the United States and the other members of the task force or invasion force were saying to us that various options were being considered for rescuing the American citizens on the island.

● (1420)

I could add, Madam Speaker, that when I learned of that on Monday night, when the Minister phoned me back on Monday night, I immediately said that we should tell the Americans that they should envisage every way of rescuing or making sure their citizens were secure before contemplating an invasion. That message in fact was not delivered because, by the time it was ready to be delivered the next morning, the invasion had already taken place.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I do know that we were supposed to have been consulted. I have been told this by Prime Minister Seaga of Jamaica, who phoned me to apologize for the fact that the person who was supposed to notify Canada had not done so. That person was not the President of the United States. It was one of the other political leaders of the area. The same thing may have happened in the case of Great Britain. I have read in the dispatches that the opposition in Great Britain is chiding Prime Minister Thatcher precisely because she had not been notified, either. Was it for reasons of security? I do not know the reason Margaret Thatcher is being given.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER CHALLENGE REPLY

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I believe it is clear from the reply of the Prime Minister that he also reads very serious consequences into the statement, because as a NATO ally and as a NORAD partner of the United States of America our relationship must be based on mutual trust at all times. That occasionally requires us to resolve doubt in favour of our greatest friend, neighbour, and ally, the United States of America.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: This is a very disturbing reply, having regard to the unique degree of trust and confidentiality which must exist between our allies. May I ask the Prime Minister if the Government intends to allow this statement by the Under

Secretary to remain, or will he challenge the statement and advise the House of the manner in which he would propose to do that?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am not challenging the statement, nor do I agree with the Leader of the Opposition when he said on Tuesday in this House that President Reagan had explained everything he needed to know in his statement on Tuesday. I believe there are a lot of things we have to know, Madam Speaker, which we are trying to find out. The instance raised by the Leader of the Opposition is one of the things which puzzles us. However, I will tell you, Madam Speaker, that there are a lot of pieces to the puzzle which we cannot put together.

I tell the Leader of the Opposition again that I was phoned by Prime Minister Seaga after the event, apologizing for the fact that the person who was supposed to communicate with me had not done so. I also know, I repeat, as is apparent from the debate in Great Britain, that Mrs. Thatcher had not been informed, either, of the invasion. It is apparent that most of the allies had not been informed of the invasion. It is something in which a few participating parties were involved, but no one from the outside.

It is quite conceivable, Madam Speaker, that the United States and the other participating partners did not want anyone to know. It is possible also, as I indicated, that they wanted us to know and that the persons who were supposed to contact us did not do so. I repeat, it was not the United States which was entrusted with letting us know of the invasion, it was another Caribbean leader, and the message did not come through.

FOREKNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH AUTHORITIES

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister who has left the impression with the House that perhaps the British were not informed, as he was not informed. Would the Prime Minister indicate if he is aware of the fact that Sir Geoffrey Howe stated in the British House of Commons that:

Britain had been told last Friday that the Organization of East Caribbean States might be asking for military help in invading Grenada.

The next day those States decided to form a multinational force and the United States informed Britain that a request for assistance had been received in Washington.

Sir Geoffrey said that on Saturday night Britain had been told by Washington that the United States would proceed "very cautiously."

Would the Prime Minister indicate if any of that type of information was conveyed equally to the Canadian Government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it will depend on what the Hon. Member means when he says, "proceed cautiously". That is the whole point. "Proceed cautiously" with what? I suggest that there was no firm knowledge conveyed to Canada that "proceeding cautiously" would involve a disembarkment of American and other troops