

*Oral Questions*

project be discontinued until a report addressing the labour and safety conditions at the Candu sites is provided to the Canadian people?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as I understand the suggestion put forward by the hon. member, it is that in this time, shortly after a dramatic change of regime in Romania when that country is struggling not simply to open its way to democracy but also to put its economy on a strong base, we should act on the basis of reports that we have not been able to confirm or to deny, that we should act to cut off some of the economic development that is under way now. I think that on reflection the hon. member would agree that that would be an unfortunate way for Canada to proceed.

What we are doing is seeking to gather information that is reliable as to what went on, what safety standards there are now and as to what options are open to us. I am concerned about the matter. I was concerned about it when it came to my attention. We began inquiries and we are continuing them. As soon as we have information which merits action, we will take that action. I will keep the member informed.

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**TRADE**

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. The recent U.S. decision under its Export Enhancement Program to subsidize American wheat sold to the Soviet Union flies in the face of Article 701(4) of the free trade agreement, which states that the Americans will take our export interests into account when deciding whether to subsidize exports to a third country.

Has the minister informed the United States government that it considers this undercutting of traditional Canadian export markets a violation of the free trade agreement?

• (1500)

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, we have informed the United States on many occasions that we believe this policy is counterproductive, not only contrary to the spirit of the

free trade agreement though not contrary to any particular clause of the free trade agreement, but disruptive to the whole world trading system for wheat and grains. We have protested on many occasions. This is why we are supporting negotiations of the FTN to include agriculture under the FTN.

We are working on behalf of the Canadian exporters of grain so that these practices in the future will be blocked under the GATT. At the moment they are not. The United States says they are in competition with the European Community and they are determined to continue on until they persuade the European Community to drop their subsidy practices.

So, these two giants are clashing. The rest of the world is suffering. That is why we hope we will have the support of the members of the Official Opposition in our efforts to gain a successful Uruguay round of the GATT negotiations.

Up to date, all we have had is short-sighted criticism and picayune plucking away at our negotiations.

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, I know the minister did not read the free trade agreement. I wish he would read Article 701.4 which clearly states that this is in violation of the free trade agreement.

The government said that the free trade agreement would go beyond GATT. It would give Canada special consideration by the Americans. This latest U.S. export subsidy will likely drop the world price of wheat by 56 cents a bushel.

Will the minister not agree that his special relationship with the Americans is meaningless when it comes to protecting Canadian export interests? Will he not stand up for Canadian wheat farmers and demand that the U.S. withdraw this unfair trade practice—

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. member has put his question.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Canada—U.S. Free Trade Agreement applies to exports from Canada to the United States and exports from the United States to Canada. These wheat sales are exports from Canada to other countries in the world or exports from the United States to other countries in the world.