

Oral Questions

how happy we are that this incident has been concluded, at least with a lesser loss of life than might otherwise have been anticipated. With regard to our involvement in protection, and given that the international community has been aware for some time, at least since the recent trials, convictions, and sentencing in France, that Armenians had made threats against Turkish communities around the world, did we contact the Turkish Embassy here to discuss with them the possible necessity of additional security being provided for them during this rather high alert period?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is very short. Indeed there had been communication between the Government of Canada and the Turkish Embassy prior to this incident, at which time—that is the time of the discussions—the Turkish Embassy expressed satisfaction with the existing security arrangements in place at the direction of the Government of Canada.

EMPLOYMENT OF SECURITY OFFICERS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, given that we were aware there were threats, was there any discussion between the Government of Canada and the Pinkerton company, which provides service to various embassies around Ottawa, to determine whether or not they felt their operative in that area was capable of dealing with the additional threats which were quite clearly in place over the course of the last three weeks?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think the prudent limitation to the response there, so as not to compromise security arrangements, would be to explain to the hon. gentleman and Members of the House that the arrangements made with respect to the employment of Pinkerton security officers are by way of contract with the Pinkerton organization and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, at the direction of the Department of External Affairs.

EMBASSY ATTACKERS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a double-barrelled supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Perhaps he could answer whether or not the Pinkerton agency was made aware of the rather higher alert situation which existed, particularly for the Turkish community at this point in time. Has the Government ascertained the nationality of the two individuals who were arrested at the embassy today and determined whether or not they are residents of Canada, or residents of some other country and entered Canada for the purpose of their attack on the Turkish Embassy?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, with respect to those who are now in custody, under arrest, I think the Hon. Member would

agree at once that it would be quite inappropriate for them to be identified at a point in time when the information and charges being laid have not even been decided.

Mr. Deans: I am not asking for the names.

Mr. Nielsen: With respect to the details of any investigation which is at this very moment under way, it would be totally inappropriate to be discussing the nature, extent, and details of any such investigation, because that in itself would be inimicable to fair treatment of the individuals involved, having regard to our system of justice in this country.

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SPACE WEAPONRY

CANADA-UNITED STATES DISCUSSIONS—STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the forthcoming meetings this weekend between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States. We recognize that two hours of formal meetings are not sufficient time to cover all the vital issues, but I think the Minister would share with us the belief that, with the beginning of the Geneva arms talks today, the issue of arms control should be a matter of vital concern, particularly the position taken by the Americans.

● (1430)

With reference to that issue, I want to ask him about the statement made by the U.S. Undersecretary of Defense in front of Congress where he said that negotiators could discuss how to co-ordinate the deployment and phasing of strategic defence systems, but not negotiate about giving them up. This really runs very much against the policy of the Government that star wars should not go ahead. I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the Prime Minister intends to raise with President Reagan the issue of arms control negotiations and the American position. In particular, will he make the case that the Americans should put the star wars proposal on the bargaining table and attempt to negotiate a ban on any star wars deployment?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course the question of arms control will be part of the discussions at the historic summit to occur this weekend in Québec city. As the Hon. Member will know, if his concern is about weapons in space, that matter is already on the negotiating agenda in Geneva, put there explicitly by Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Shultz.

GENEVA ARMS CONTROL TALKS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, it is important that the Secretary of State for External Affairs clarify this because it is quite clear, according to the