

Royal Assent

In order to reassure the House on this question I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the Export and Import Permits Act is Canada's legislation for controlling the export of strategic and military goods. All items which are subject to controls are found on the Export Control List. The definition of what goods are military or strategic was covered in the Minister's policy statement of September 10, 1986, and various members have referred to those definitions this afternoon. Today, various Hon. Members have referred to those definitions. For their part, the definitions used by Canada find their origin in the multilaterally agreed international munitions list which is reflected in Group 7 of our Export Control List and, for strategic goods, are defined by reference to items described in Groups 3 to 8 and 10 of the Export Control List reflecting COCOMs International Embargo Lists.

● (1750)

Before such goods can be exported from Canada, there is a legal requirement under the Act for an export permit. The decision to issue a permit and the conditions under which such a permit would be issued are bound by regulations issued under the Act, policy guidelines issued by the Government, and rules and practices which form part of Canada's multilateral obligations as a member of the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls. COCOMs purpose, as Hon. Members may recall, is to co-ordinate and harmonize control over exports of military and strategic goods to certain proscribed destinations which are essentially the Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Pact as well as the People's Republic of China, Viet Nam, North Korea and Albania.

In order to ensure that the most sensitive class of exports, including both military goods and technology and the highest level of strategic goods and technology, are not diverted, there is an internationally recognized document issued at present by the Governments of 27 countries. By means of this document, the export control authorities of the importing country acknowledge that they are aware that an importer in their country is importing multilaterally controlled goods from the exporting country. This document, called an International Import Certificate, or IC for short, must correspond in all details with the export permit application or it is not accepted and an export permit application risks immediate refusal.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Deputy Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1800)

[Translation]

And being returned:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-28, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (torture)—Chapter No. 13.

Bill C-44, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977—Chapter No. 14.

The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1), this order shall be dropped from the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—PROPOSED SAGUENAY SHOOTING RANGE—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

M. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I must draw the attention of the House to an important matter, the shooting range for the F-18 bomber that the Conservative Government proposes to establish in the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean area. As you probably know, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) is about to occupy or expropriate a large territory in the province of Quebec, to use it as a shooting range. I do not have to remind you that many people from the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean area have protested vigorously against this military project and the way the Government is juggling with the issue. Mr. Speaker, when I spoke on that subject last June, over 85 local and regional organizations were unconditionally opposed to the shooting range. Today, the Coalition against the shooting range is supported by more than 150 groups including 14 municipalities, seven regional school boards and the Quebec provincial NDP.

In spite of that massive opposition, the Conservative Government is persisting in trying to sell this insane project. They persist in acting unilaterally, without holding the public hearings requested by local people and NDP supporters.

It is obvious that instead of studying the viability of a shooting range, this Conservative Government finds it more essential to launch a vast disinformation campaign that borders on blackmail.