

Quite apart from that fact, we have also, in recognition of that, extended recognition to the new government, as have scores of other countries throughout the world.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): If I understand the minister's answer correctly, Mr. Speaker, he is saying that he has this assurance from the Argentina embassy in Ottawa. Has the minister not received any written assurance from that government, either from the Prime Minister of the country or from the minister of foreign affairs? Has the minister any written commitment in respect of discharging the responsibilities which that government has assumed under the treaty, and will he table such a written commitment if he has one?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the message with regard to living up to the international agreements was transmitted on the behalf of the government of Argentina by the embassy in Ottawa. It was not a message that originated in Ottawa, it was a message that was transmitted on behalf of the government of Argentina in the form of a note. It is quite unusual, Mr. Speaker, to table such intergovernmental exchanges. It has not been done in the past. We will look at the matter to see whether in this case there would be any reason to do so.

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ENERGY

SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO ARGENTINA—REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF LOSS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a related supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the chairman of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited gave evidence before the standing committee to the effect that we stood to lose in the neighbourhood of \$100 million on the Argentina agreement to sell them a CANDU reactor, and since it was possible to estimate the loss under the original agreement it should be possible to estimate what the financial position will be under the renegotiated agreement, would the minister indicate what Canada stands to lose under the renegotiated agreement, or how much have we reduced the \$100 million loss? Can the minister give the House that information?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the House that information at this stage. This agreement is before my cabinet colleagues at the present time. I can tell the House that very substantial progress was made by the Canadian negotiating team in their renegotiation of the commercial terms.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO METHODS OF PREVENTING VIOLENCE TO COMBAT POLITICAL IDEAS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General.

The serious revelations made by former police officer Robert Samson are so serious that it is beginning to look very much like the Watergate affair. The minister said this week that he asked the RCMP to make an investigation on this subject but sometimes it must be rather difficult to make an objective investigation into and judge one's own case. Would the minister consider the possibility of establishing a special commission to shed light on this matter and prevent the systematic use of violence to fight political ideologies?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in this House earlier this week, we started that investigation to get as many facts as possible with regard to this incident. We have not ruled out the possibility of a further independent investigation if we cannot get all the information we want. This is still a possibility.

[Translation]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Could the minister tell us whether he is aware of the fact that, during other periods, namely between 1963-70 and even after, there were complaints made to his department which are similar to those revealed by police officer Samson.

● (1120)

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, at this time we are not aware of any other incident similar to the one complained of by Mr. Samson, but this will be one of the subject matters of the investigation I began.

ROLE OF FORCE IN RAID ON QUEBEC NEWSPAPER OFFICE—OBTAINING OF WARRANT

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Has the minister been able to ascertain if any other police force involved in the raid on the Quebec newspaper, to which reference was made earlier this week, obtained a warrant? Also, did the RCMP play a main, subsidiary or supporting role in that particular incident?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we know the RCMP played a supporting or assisting role in this investigation or raid. I have not yet been able to obtain a report from those who investigated this matter on behalf of my department and therefore do not know yet if a warrant was obtained.

Mr. MacKay: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister undertake to report as soon as possible on whether a warrant was obtained as, if no warrant was obtained, even if the RCMP played a subsidiary role, they