

*Oral Questions*

learned that, to the best of our knowledge, there is no such activity. I shall be pleased to get more specific information and reply to the hon. member later.

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[Translation]

**IMMIGRATION****POSSIBILITY OF ADMITTING LEBANESE REFUGEES IN CYPRUS INTO CANADA**

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the fact that Canadian immigration officers accredited with the government of Cyprus are now residing in Tel Aviv, Israel, could the minister tell the House what special steps his department has already taken or intends to take to promote the admission into Canada of the many Lebanese who found refuge in Cyprus and would no doubt appreciate the hospitality of a country with french as one of its official languages? Furthermore, could he say whether his department is in contact with the Quebec Department of Immigration about that potential French-speaking immigration?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have had a communication with the Hon. Lise Bacon, Quebec Minister of Immigration, about this matter and will be meeting the minister early next week to discuss it further with her.

With regard to measures taken in the tragic situation in Lebanon, we have, to the degree we can and recognizing the difficulty of having facilities operating in Beirut, in those particularly difficult circumstances, expedited the processing of applications from Lebanese, with particular emphasis on those who have relatives in Canada. Relatives of people of Lebanese citizenship who are in Canada now and who are sponsorable or nominatable and meet the criteria, we are proceeding to land in Canada under the order in council authority I have in the circumstances. Lebanese visitors to Canada who do not have relatives here are being permitted to stay beyond their ordinary period of time and not being asked to return to Lebanon until the situation clarifies itself. We are indeed, going further than that, and looking at the possibility of establishing auxiliary facilities in Cyprus, which is about a 20 minute flight away I am told, from Lebanon, in order to meet this emergency situation. Indeed, any Lebanese people wishing to apply to come to Canada, who can get out of the dangerous situation in Lebanon and go to a third country of any kind, can make application and we will expedite the procedure within the general criteria I have mentioned.

**WORK PERMITS FOR LEBANESE STUDENTS**

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, may I say that I think most of us welcome the special arrangements the minister announced. I wish to ask about another area of concern. It has been brought to my attention that many students from Lebanon who are unable to get help from home will require help. I hope the

[Mr. Jamieson.]

minister can arrange for them to obtain work permits this summer, so that they can augment their finances.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to add to what I said previously. I missed the point the hon. member raised. We are permitting the allocation of work permits, except in the most extraordinary circumstances of which I cannot at the moment give any examples, to students or other Lebanese visitors who are not sponsorable or nominatable but who have stayed in this country. We are not asking them to return to Lebanon. If they can find work, we will give them visas.

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**FISHERIES****AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND CANADA CONCERNING FISHING RIGHTS IN 200-MILE ZONE—REQUEST FOR DETAILS**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I will direct my question to the Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries. I gave him notice of the question which I feel is of great importance to the people of Atlantic Canada. Have Canada and the Soviet Union signed an agreement covering fishing rights over a 200-mile limit; and if so, what are the particular terms of reference? Finally, since many species are now fished below the sustainable yield level, what species will be classed as surplus to Canada's needs, with permission being granted to the Soviets to catch those fish under special licences?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I know the agreement was signed between the USSR and Canada. I also know that it was agreed that Canada would determine the allocation of surplus fish stocks in Canada. Finally, I know there has been a decrease in the population of ground fish but it is obvious that we will then take into account the situation of fisheries within the 200 miles, if ever they should be accepted.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF WORLD CLASS AND OLYMPIC ATHLETES**

**Mr. Speaker:** I know hon. members will want to join me in calling attention to the presence in our gallery of a distinguished and extraordinary group of Canadians, all of whom have been honoured by being invited to Ottawa today to a reception with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Their achievement is that they are holders of medals in world class or Olympic competition. Those Canadians who qualified and are in the gallery at present include, if I am not mistaken, Kathy Kreiner, Toller Cran-