

*Oral Questions*

only the re-arming track, but the negotiating towards disarmament track, be followed very sincerely by the two super powers.

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF CANADA-UNITED STATES  
AGREEMENT

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** The Prime Minister says that he knows of no such understanding. I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs a few weeks ago this question which I now put to the Prime Minister: will he make available to the House, and to the Standing Committee on External Affairs, all the details relating to the framework agreement in the first instance, and any agreement which is negotiated for escalating the arms race through the Cruise missile? Will he also make available to the House and to the Standing Committee, all the details of what the *quid pro quo* really is in this field, and what new, further and larger defence contracts the Canadian Government is allowing Canadian firms to have with the U.S. Government, and particularly the Pentagon?

● (1425)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I would want to point out to the Hon. Member that when she prefaces her question by indicating that we are escalating the arms deal, the arms situation, I do not see it in that light. Since I proposed a strategy of suffocation in 1978, the Soviet Union has deployed some 300 SS-20s, each capable of carrying three nuclear warheads, aimed at Western Europe. That is the origin of the two-track policy adopted by NATO in 1979. I can assure the Hon. Member that this matter of testing the Cruise and the proposed understanding with the United States in the form of an umbrella agreement, has been raised several times in Cabinet and in Cabinet committees in my presence, but not once did I hear one single Minister or official indicate that this would be with a *quid pro quo* for any exchange or purchases with the United States. I can give the Hon. Member that absolute assurance.

**Miss Jewett:** It would be helpful, however, if the Prime Minister would cease being so secretive with the Canadian people and with this Parliament. I would also like to remind him that the Cruise missile is almost totally, if not totally, undetectable. That is what makes it totally different from the SS-20 or any previous generation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Good.

**Miss Jewett:** And if it is undetectable, it is hence unverifiable.

REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** I will turn to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who will recall his reply to me on October 29 that he would look into the matter of pursuing the commitment made by his predecessor that the framework agreement would be made public. Will

he now reply to my request of that day that a reference be given to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence to go into the whole matter involving both the framework agreement and the Cruise missile agreement being negotiated underneath it?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the framework agreement has not yet been signed but, when it is signed, which may be in the next month or so, I will certainly be ready to make the details available to Hon. Members of the House and members of the public. All the matters which are covered will be made available, and there will be no effort to conceal what is a very simple arrangement to conduct weapons testing in Canada in a general way. When that is done, it will then be necessary, before any testing takes place, for discussions to occur between the Minister of National Defence and his counterparts in the United States. That arrangement would have to take place under the over-all agreement. If that occurs, we will also make the details available to the House and to the public in the fullest possible way.

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MACDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION

TERMS OF CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. In his absence we have been seeking information on the Macdonald Royal Commission on Economic Union and Development Prospects, but his colleagues advised us to wait until his return for answers. Therefore, once again we ask, did Donald Macdonald receive assurances that he could be released from his duties as Chairman before the inquiry finishes its work and, if so, what credibility can a Commission have if its Chairman has an opting out clause in his contract?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I want to make it clear that there is no clause and no opting out provision in the contract, if that is the term the hon. lady wants to use.

**An Hon. Member:** You can always quit.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is the point. He could always quit, and if Mr. Macdonald chooses to quit in some hypothetical situation where I would be resigning my job, then surely he is free to do that. To be quite thorough in my answer, the matter did come up. I told Mr. Macdonald that I could not bind him forever, that he was raising a hypothetical situation and he would just have to take that under consideration in deciding whether he would accept it or not.

● (1430)

I think that the same reasoning applies to the some 12 or 14 other members of the Commission whose names will be