

Oral Questions

In view of the interest shown by Quebecers and all Canadians, I imagine, and since the negotiations between the responsible ministers in Ottawa and Quebec City are going on, when could the minister give some relevant information to the House?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I will gladly advise the House as soon as possible. It would be useful to know the views of the hon. member's party about the matter.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE**POSSIBILITY DUTCH CHEESE BEING DUMPED INTO ONTARIO—
REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture regarding the importation of cheese. Would the minister look into the possibility that Dutch cheese has been dumped into the Ontario market? This cheese, manufactured in Holland, is selling at 40 cents per pound less in Ontario than it sells in Holland?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that all aspects of imported cheese, subsidized or otherwise, are being investigated at the present time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INDIA—INQUIRY WHETHER AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE
NUCLEAR AID WILL CONFORM TO PRINCIPLES AGREED TO BY
SUPPLIER NATIONS**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but I am not attempting to ask him to breach any cabinet secrecy in respect of an agreement which has not been placed before his cabinet colleagues. I wonder if the minister could confirm that any intended agreement with India with respect to the continuation of nuclear aid will be in conformity with the four principles agreed upon by Canada and the other six supplier nations as a result of the London conference?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, certainly the standards that have been agreed upon by the supplier countries are involved in this discussion. One of the questions that I shall be asking as I receive the report is to what extent the understandings that have been reached in New Delhi comply with the guidelines established by the suppliers before I would send forward recommendations to the cabinet.

Mr. Lawrence: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that one of the principles involved in respect of the supplier conference agreement was that recipients of nuclear aid must give assurances that nuclear facility imports will not be used to make nuclear explosives for any purpose, even tunnel excavation by nuclear explosion, for any period of time, whereas the intended

[Mr. La Salle.]

agreement now on the desk of the minister relates only to an 18 month period respecting the New Delhi agreement. Can the minister comment on the contradiction between no time limit in respect of the supplier conference agreement and the 18 month period specified in the draft agreement now on his desk?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I have not received any draft agreement. What I have received is a very summary report by way of telegram. I hope to receive a full report from Mr. Dupuy very shortly. At that time it will be possible to be more precise. However, on the basis of my personal knowledge, I do not believe there is any difficulty with respect to the question of the duration, as has been raised by the hon. member.

● (1450)

**SIGNING OF NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AS PRECONDITION
TO SIGNING NEW AGREEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER
STATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It flows from the questions on the New Delhi agreement as well as the statement made by the minister's parliamentary secretary during the adjournment debate yesterday. Is it government policy to complete nuclear power sites without the host country involved having signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, but that all new agreements to build Canadian nuclear power sites will have as a precondition that the host country has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, that would not be a clear definition or clear statement of government policy with respect to membership in the NPT. I believe that my colleague, the then Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, in making his statement in December, 1974 underlined the conditions with which we look at the NPT. Briefly, I would say in cases where we provide direct aid or assistance in the construction of a nuclear reactor, we expect such countries to join the NPT because of the greater responsibility Canada has taken through its provision of financial assistance and because of the greater possibility that exists in that situation for having an influence on the recipient country. In other cases, generally, membership in the NPT is an influential factor in considering whether to undertake a transaction of any kind.

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ELECTIONS**DATE OF BY-ELECTION IN OTTAWA-CARLETON—REASON FOR
DELAY**

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister yesterday assured this House that he believes the electorate in every constituency in Canada is entitled to representation in the House of Commons, can the Prime Minister inform this House and the people of Ottawa-Carleton when a by-election will be held to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of one of