

PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES  
PRESIDENT

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** My next question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. If the policy is to strengthen the Contadora process, then the response surely has to be to President Reagan in the strongest terms that Canada disagrees with this initiative. That view certainly should be expressed—I would hope the Prime Minister would agree—now that the Prime Minister has the opportunity of sitting down with the President in Washington this evening. Can he give us some assurance that the Prime Minister will make sure that item is on the agenda and that Canada's views are made known.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is anyone in the House who is unaware of the fact that the discussions between the President and the Prime Minister are going to be very broad ranging indeed. Again, let me point out to him the response of the Secretary of State for External Affairs of last March 13, to the Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam:

We believe—

That is this Government,

—that actions speak louder than words in Central America as elsewhere. Our Government has tripled its development assistance in Central America because we believe the problem there is an economic problem and not a military problem to be solved by military means.

## UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN FISH EXPORTS

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Surely a summit is a time for straight talk, and we hope to see some from the Prime Minister to the President, not only on the Nicaragua issue, but on other major issues such as the countervail on Atlantic fish products, where there has been a modest reduction of 1 per cent. If the Government does not agree with that decision, namely that 1 per cent is insufficient, surely the Prime Minister will take this opportunity of advising the President that that countervail has to be removed.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** There is no question that will be a subject of discussion, Mr. Speaker.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON—ACID RAIN  
DISCUSSIONS

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs my question is also for the Deputy Prime Minister and it has to do with the summit meeting. What we want to know from the Deputy Prime Minister is whether the Prime Minister will be asking the President merely to endorse the acid rain envoys' recommendation for five more years of research, or whether he will instead formally request that an emission control program be instituted in the U.S. rather than more research.

## Oral Questions

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows that that is high on the agenda for discussion in the United States. He will recall, as well, the response which was given by the Minister of the Environment, in answer to one of his previous questions, that more has been accomplished by this Government in the area of acid rain in 18 months than by the Hon. Member's Government in 18 years.

• (1420)

**Mr. Caccia:** Mr. Speaker, I was expecting a more serious reply on this kind of subject from the Deputy Prime Minister than the one he just gave.

## CANADIAN POSITION

**Hon. Chas L. Caccia (Davenport):** We want to know from the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Prime Minister will explain to President Reagan that more research over the next five years is unacceptable to Canada, especially so because the proposal of the acid rain envoys is simply one which leaves the initiatives to the industries which are the source of acid rain pollution. Will this be what the Prime Minister will put to the President?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Twist as he might, the Hon. Member must recognize the fact that there has been no more eloquent a supporter of the elimination of the acid rain problem on this continent and in this country than the Prime Minister. The Hon. Member knows full well that those views, which have been expressed so often, and publicly, will be expressed by the Prime Minister in his meetings with the President.

## NICARAGUA—VIEWS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and it concerns President Reagan's proposed escalation of military involvement in Nicaragua. I would like to say that, unlike the Deputy Prime Minister, most Canadians do not think such action is purely a domestic matter, just as we did not think action of a similar kind in Afghanistan and Vietnam were domestic matters.

Considering such countries as Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru and Mexico have made it clear that outside intervention of the kind now being advocated by the President of the United States is entirely wrong, will the Government of Canada, specifically through the Prime Minister in the meetings he is about to have on the eve of an important vote in Congress, also indicate clearly that this proposed action by the President of the United States is wrong?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party is attempting to misconstrue what I said. If I did not say it clearly, let me do so now. We do not believe, as