

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DISAPPEARANCE OF CHILEAN NATIONALS—GOVERNMENT  
STEPS TO INVESTIGATE

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the hunger strike of Chilean friends and relatives of disappeared persons and prisoners which was terminated yesterday at noon, of which perhaps the minister is aware. As a result of an official commitment which was made by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference in Chile to press government authorities on the fate, after the disappearance, of persons and prisoners and, perhaps more important, the apparent assurance of the minister of the interior to clarify the situation case by case in, and I quote, "a short period of time" and in view of the previous commitment of about a year ago from President Pinochet to provide the same information—a commitment made to the United Nations—I wonder what action the minister is prepared to take on behalf of the Canadian government, as well as through the offices of either the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Waldheim, or the Human Rights Commission, to ensure that in fact we do get to the bottom of the disappearance of 2,500 persons and prisoners, which is a very serious situation to those who are deeply involved in this great human agony.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of this matter and I share the obvious concern of the hon. member and of all members in this issue. We have taken a number of steps already and we have done a certain amount of monitoring of the situation to the best of our ability. The response has not been adequate. However, we see some evidence that progress has been made on President Pinochet's commitment, but not enough and not rapidly enough. I am afraid the most I can do for the hon. member is to say that I will take his proposals under advisement.

● (1452)

We can certainly make representations to the Chilean government along the lines suggested, and I will look into the possibility of action through the Secretary General of the United Nations and in other ways.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY CROWN AGENCIES IN SEARCH FOR  
OIL AND GAS IN PAKISTAN

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This week, the government announced that Petro-Canada and CIDA will combine to spend \$70 million to search for oil and gas in Pakistan. Since the rationale of Petro-Canada is to increase Canada's proven oil and gas reserves, and since the stated policy of CIDA is to give priority to meeting the basic needs of people in the poorest countries, what are the circumstances which have led to this strange

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policy by which two government agencies are now doing what private industry could do much better?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I am not sure whether I can give a total response within the constraints of the question period. The hon. member has referred to the mandates of these organizations. I think he would agree that although Petro-Canada has an important role to play within Canada, it is not inhibited or prohibited from acting elsewhere in the world. Similarly, while CIDA has an obvious preoccupation with one particular stream of foreign assistance, namely, to the poor people of the world, part of its mandate is to look on the development side.

The hon. member asked me to explain the rationale behind this project. As I advised the hon. member earlier, I have seen the documentation and the reason for it. I think it deserves a good deal of support both as a worth-while form of assistance to Pakistan and also as containing a substantial component, as I understand it, of Canadian equipment, material and technical assistance which certainly add to its benefit. If the hon. member is interested, I am sure we could provide him with a written background paper outlining the history of the project and the reason the decision was made to proceed.

**Mr. Roche:** I appreciate the minister's response. However, since this is an abrupt change in Canadian policy with regard to foreign aid, I should like this document to be made available not only to myself but to the Standing Committee on External Affairs, so that the committee might study the appropriateness of this project and the aid-effectiveness of the plan the minister has mentioned.

**Mr. Jamieson:** I believe the hon. member is on the steering committee, and it is a matter for the committee itself to decide how and when it will proceed. I will do my best, but I want to say that I am not at all in agreement with the hon. member's preamble in which he suggested there has been a dramatic change in policy. I think this project is consistent with one aspect of CIDA's role. The hon. member might wish to consult the chairman of the committee in the first instance. I am in a position to give him a great deal more information than I can give him orally today.

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## AGRICULTURE

## EXPORT OF BEEF TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture pertaining to the statement from Washington that President Carter will today announce a 15 per cent increase in U.S. beef import levels. In view of the fact that Canadian cattle producers are only now beginning to recoup a small part of the \$400 million they have lost in equity in the last four years, will the minister assure our cattle producers that he will not be increasing Canadian beef quotas which have been set for all of 1978 following reasonable debate and agreement?