

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

FRENCH LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN ONTARIO

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State. In view of the keen wish continuously being expressed by English-speaking parents in Ontario to have their children learn French, and in view of reports from Ontario that the teaching of French in Ontario's public schools is far from meeting parents' expectations, despite the fact that between 1971 and 1977 the federal government paid to the government of Ontario \$32.5 million for French language training for grades 1 to 13, could the Secretary of State inform this House what action he will take to ensure that the government of Ontario will at last do what it has long been expected to do and give Ontarians the quality of French language education they desire for their children?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member indicated, we have been providing financial assistance not only to Ontario but to all of the provinces to support the extension of second language and minority language education in their school systems. I have been reviewing and negotiating these arrangements with the provinces for the past year in an attempt to make sure that these financial resources are used more effectively to achieve the objectives which we have in promoting second language and minority language education. I expect to continue these discussions with the provinces shortly, and a new agreement should be concluded some time before the spring of 1979.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the declaration by terrorist factions with respect to the Rhodesian settlement to the effect that they are not interested in a multiracial regime in Rhodesia, is the minister now prepared to modify the stand he has held until now and make a statement in favour of those forces which have negotiated the settlement?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would not be prepared at this time to make any further comment beyond what I have said, certainly not until I have received a report, which I expect within the next day or so, from the meetings that have been held this week which involved, among others, Foreign Minister Owen of the United Kingdom and Secretary of State Vance. What we have been receiving so far are news reports. I would like to have an official report.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I take it from the minister's comments that Canada has no role whatso-

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ever to play except to follow in this particular instance. I wonder if the minister is prepared to withdraw the financial support which is now being accorded from Canadian public funds to those forces which are supporting terrorist activities whether in Africa or via Cuba?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, concerning the assumption that preceded the question, obviously we are not taking what might be described as a placid or a reactive role. I think it is only reasonable to expect that we would ask for and get from Mr. Owen and Mr. Vance a detailed report on what has been happening.

On the second part of the question, if I understood it correctly, I believe the hon. member used the word "forces" in reference to Canadian contributions. I think I said in the House last week that there are no such contributions and that they are very much of a humanitarian nature aimed primarily at looking after refugees. If the hon. member really is saying that we should take away, for example, food and educational and related assistance from the thousands of young people who are refugees—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: I say, if he is asking that, but because he dismissed—

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): You are twisting my question.

Mr. Jamieson: Then perhaps I had better let the hon. member, with Your Honour's permission, ask a supplementary so I can get it clearer. I have no wish to twist the hon. member's question.

Mr. Clark: It was very clear to everyone else.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): I would like to ask a final supplementary. It is quite obvious that the minister is twisting the question I have been putting.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: Ask it.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, is the minister prepared to support the Cuban regime which, by virtue of the assistance it is getting from Canada, is assisting the forces of terror, murder and kidnapping in Africa?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, without becoming in the least argumentative, I suggest that when the record is available it will show a question quite different from the one the hon. member asked earlier. Certainly, the second time around he included references to Cuba which were not included the first time.

An hon. Member: Yes, they were.

Mr. Jamieson: Then, frankly, I am sorry; I did not understand that. In so far as that answer is concerned, I indicated to