

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

KIDNAPPING OF FORMER ITALIAN PREMIER, ALDO MORO—
EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR EARLY RELEASE

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. It has to do with another political kidnapping which took place this morning in Rome, that of former premier Aldo Moro. Does the Government of Canada intend to express to the government of Italy the deep shock felt by the Canadian parliament and by the people of Canada, and indicate our hopes and prayers that Mr. Moro will be freed soon, unharmed?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have already sent to the President of Italy, on behalf of the government, an expression of our sense of deep shock and grief which the government feels at such senseless violence. I added the thought that certainly in a democratic society, that kind of violence is absolutely unjustifiable in the furthering of a cause. I also added, on behalf of the government, our condolences to the people of Italy, to the former prime minister's family and to the families of the victims of these senseless murders.

The government certainly agrees with the terms of the motion put forward by the hon. member. Of course, I cannot speak on behalf of parliament, but I understand there have been some negotiations with members on the other side and they might be prepared to agree to the terms of the motion. However, I do not know if the negotiations have been undertaken with all concerned.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMITMENTS MADE TO RCMP OPERATIVE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief question for the Solicitor General concerning the RCMP operative about whom we spoke yesterday. I ask whether he has been able to secure the co-operation of his colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and whether he is able to assure the House that any commitments that have been made to this important operative, who has been in the country for some years and who still has services to perform, will be kept.

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Without accepting that any commitments have been made, I will say that there have been discussions between myself and the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the matter is well in hand. As I have indicated to the hon. gentleman privately, I will be able to provide him with additional information in due course.

Oral Questions

IMMIGRATION

DEPARTMENT'S CO-OPERATION WITH RCMP ON RCMP
OPERATIVE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief supplementary question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I believe the minister now realizes that this man wrote to him on several occasions last year. I believe the minister has now briefed himself from the file. Can he give us the assurance that there has been complete co-operation between the RCMP, in terms of its commitments to policy, and his department in carrying them out?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): With respect to the individual and the letter which the hon. member was good enough to show me yesterday, I would simply confirm that he is here on a ministerial permit and that no illegal action took place. Certainly, no commitment was made by my department to that individual.

● (1442)

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP IN RETURN FOR UNDERTAKING RCMP
INTELLIGENCE WORK

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the same minister and follow up on the policy area. Is it the policy of the government to offer landed immigrant status, and with that status the possibility of eventual citizenship status, to non-Canadians in return for work which they have done for our security services in the Canadian national interest?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not the policy of the government to offer landed immigrant status on that particular basis. I have a responsibility to Canadian citizens to see that individuals who make application to come to this country meet the standards and conditions set for people all over the world. However, from time to time we issue ministerial permits to accommodate people who want to come into this country. Representatives and members of the hon. member's party have requested permission for an individual to come into the country for a week or a month to participate in a particular forum or to make a speech at a particular time. We issue ministerial permits, but we do not give them landed immigrant status. Certainly in so far as citizenship is concerned, that, of course, is within the purview of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am not referring to the short-term minister's permits of which the minister and I have spoken on many occasions. I ask the minister whether he or the officials in his department have from time to time received representations from various governmental departments or ministers to have the Department of Employment and Immigration grant landed immigrant status to non-Canadians who have served in Canada's national interests on security matters. Further, can the minister indicate whether landed immigrant status was offered but turned down by his department after the offer had