

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## NICARAGUA—UNITED STATES ACTIONS

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, for whom the NDP does indeed have affection this week because on Monday, at the United Nations General Assembly, Canada voted to endorse the World Court decision condemning United States terrorist attacks and mining of the harbours of Nicaragua.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Heap:** That is for you, Mr. Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister now assure this House that he will call on his good friend, President Reagan, to stop funding any more terrorist attacks on Nicaragua? Will he warn El Salvador and Honduras that if they continue to allow their territories to be used for these attacks of the President on Nicaragua, Canada will cut off bilateral aid to them?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will call on my good friend, Ambassador Stephen Lewis, to continue to represent Canada with the degree of independence and effectiveness with which he has done so at the United Nations. I believe that an examination of Canada's voting record over the last few years at the U.N. will indicate an unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, degree of independence at all times. It is our judgment that it is important for us to assert that independence and sovereignty in all fora, including the U.N. There will be other occasions for us on real grounds to do that. Our alliances and friendships and our support of common values are not in question, but the independence of Canada shall be constantly asserted by this Government at all times.

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MEET VICE-PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sentiments which the Prime Minister has expressed. I hope he can dispel the rumour which has arisen today that he is alleged to have snubbed the Vice-President of Nicaragua, Sergio Ramirez, by refusing to meet with him. It is suggested that perhaps our Prime Minister does not want to encourage any more displeasure from Mr. Reagan. Will the Prime Minister dispel that rumour by announcing very soon that within this year he will arrange a meeting with Vice-President Sergio Ramirez of Nicaragua?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I have to dispel any rumour. I set out the policy of the Government of Canada in regard to Central America quite clearly in a speech to the Hemispheric Press Association in Vancouver in September. I believe that was a fairly straightforward and appropriate approach which I understand was commented upon by other Members of this House.

## Oral Questions

The Government of Canada, through the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has constantly been available to meet with leaders from all walks of political life. We, of course, remain available to do so with courtesy with anyone who is interested in visiting us.

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## CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## RESIGNATION OF ANTONIO ARCANGEL FROM HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Earlier this week allegations were made in this House with regard to the integrity and qualifications of a member of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, one Antonio Arcangel. Has the Minister had an opportunity to investigate those allegations? If so, what has his investigation revealed?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to consider the matter. Today I received a telegram from Antonio Arcangel in which he indicated that he is withdrawing his name from the list of members of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal because "... Ms. Sheila Copps' unfair remarks and unjust allegations have seriously impaired my ability to serve effectively as a member of such a Tribunal".

**Mr. Axworthy:** Good.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I have accepted his decision in that regard.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Did you ask for his resignation?

**Mr. Gauthier:** That's phoney.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Why don't you clean up your act?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** That's an assassination.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** You asked for his resignation, that's what.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Come on!

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[Translation]

## ENERGY

## INQUIRY WHY GASOLINE PRICES INCREASED ONLY IN QUEBEC

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but in his absence, perhaps I may direct it to the Prime Minister or the Acting Minister.