

Oral Questions

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Get out of the business.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): There are thousands of Canadian jobs involved here. I know the New Democratic Party does not care about Canadian jobs, but I do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): You should get out of the arms business.

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION**ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS CONCERNING OERLIKON
PRODUCED DEFENCE SYSTEM**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence concerning the Oerlikon affair.

In his letter dated October 2, 1986 and addressed to my colleague from Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke the Minister wrote, and I quote:

The Oerlikon-Burhle project met all specifications— including the requirement that it be fully operational in any kind of weather.

I have here a document from Oerlikon Aerospace which contradicts the Minister, so my question is this: Why did he give such assurances concerning a \$1 billion project, knowing as he did that such was not the case?

[English]

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Because, Mr. Speaker, the evaluation team which looked at Oerlikon and the other proposals found that the Oerlikon proposal was able to shoot down anything which was able to fly in any weather.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Minister said that. I also have a document from the Department of National Defence which states that it is essential "that the LLAD system deployed in defence of the brigades—" not just in the air "—be capable of defending in all weather conditions". How can the Minister justify spending that kind of money? How can he justify the response he just made when it is clearly in contradiction to both the Oerlikon document and the review made by the Minister's own department, which I have right here in my hand? How can he explain that?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the review which was made by my department was anxious to determine whether or not the Oerlikon system would be capable of shooting down anything able to fly and the response was, yes it would.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Western Arctic.

Mr. Cassidy: It shot down the Government.

An Hon. Member: You guys never could fly.

Mr. Gauthier: You never could fly in your life.

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THE PAPACY**POSSIBLE VISIT BY POPE TO FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.**

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As a result of the meeting yesterday between the Prime Minister and His Holiness the Pope, can it now be confirmed that the Pope will be visiting Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories next fall? And have the dates for such a visit been set?

An Hon. Member: Good question.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Don't waffle now, Joe.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister met His Holiness in the Vatican. I can confirm that the visit to Fort Simpson will occur. His Holiness expressed a very strong desire to come to Canada and the Prime Minister, of course, indicated how welcome he would be. There was a question as to dates. The Hon. Member will know that this is an invitation which has been issued in the course of a parochial visit on the part of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. They will be discussing with the Pope the establishment of the date.

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TRADE**PROPOSED UNITED STATES' WHEAT SALE TO CHINA**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. The Minister will be aware of reports today indicating that the United States has extended its unfair trade practices to China by selling to China one million metric tonnes of heavily subsidized wheat. Has the Government sent an appropriately worded message to Washington indicating that the Canadian Government has a strong displeasure at this kind of trade action?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises, I think, what everyone would agree is a very serious matter. The Hon. Member should know that what has been extended is an offer,