

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FLOODS****BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO REQUEST BY PROVINCE FOR ASSISTANCE—IMPROVEMENT OF PERMANENT CONTROL FACILITIES**

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the necessary legislation that would give us authority to ratify or, at least authority to carry out the undertakings is now, I understand, before the other place. I hope it will be passed soon. We will then proceed to ratify these agreements.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Am I to understand that ratification will take place following the conclusion of deliberations in the other place?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What has been agreed to in discussions with nations connected with the assurance that there will be effective screening of passengers getting on aircraft?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I do not like to encroach on the responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister of Transport, but I have had a detailed discussion of measures under way, and they are very thorough. We are subjecting all passengers going to Tel Aviv, for example, to very special screening and very special inspection. Of course, the problem is greater than one of passengers going in that direction, because at any time some madman may decide to blow up an airport anywhere in the world. We are grappling with this problem, I think, at least as effectively as any other country.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the apparent results, no country is doing very effective work. May I ask the minister whether Canada is installing screening apparatus to prevent persons getting on board aircraft with substances in their possession that can be used for explosion purposes?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, as the right hon. gentleman knows, even if very special precautions had been taken before the Japanese who blew up the airport at Tel Aviv boarded the aircraft, those precautions would have been ineffective because the apparatus and the guns were to be found in their baggage and not on their persons. I think that these questions ought to be directed, for more detailed information, to the Minister of Transport who, I think, will be able to satisfy the right hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the minister took it upon himself in his opening statement to explain the situation. I thought he knew something about the subject and did not need the assistance of another minister. I ask him particularly whether, in Canada, there is full and effective screening of international flights today?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I think those questions ought to be directed to the Minister of Transport. In our cabinet we work co-operatively; perhaps in the right hon. gentleman's cabinet it was not the same.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to learn whether the minister knew anything about the situation of which he spoke.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, but in his absence I shall direct it to the Prime Minister. Has the federal government received any request from the province of British Columbia to provide any assistance in connection with the serious flood conditions in the Similkameen, Okanagan and Kamloops areas of British Columbia?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. I received a report on the situation from the Minister of Veterans Affairs and from the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo. They were in the area over the weekend. After that report I checked and, to my knowledge at this time, we have not yet received any request from the province of British Columbia.

**Mr. Baldwin:** The hotline between Victoria and Ottawa is disconnected at present.

**Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Has the government of Canada any plans to join with the province of British Columbia in upgrading permanent flood control facilities in those areas?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, if such a request were made by the province we would certainly give it most serious consideration, as we have in other cases.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CUTTING OF SEISMIC CABLE AND DAMAGE TO FISHING GEAR BY RUSSIAN VESSELS—REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIET UNION**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The crew of a Canadian survey ship, the *J. E. Jonsson*, reports that sophisticated underwater equipment it was hauling was cut after it was crossed over by a Russian fishing vessel off Sable Island, and on the same day the Canadian ship detected a submarine of unknown origin. My question is this: Since a Canadian Armed Forces aircraft was pressed into service to hunt for the \$50,000 seismic cable, has the minister registered a complaint with the Russians over this matter? If so, what was the official response?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is no. I have not yet registered a complaint and, indeed, I was unaware of the facts until the hon. gentleman drew them to my attention. I have been away for a few days and perhaps have not caught up with the news.

**Mr. Crouse:** As Canadian fishermen have complained many times that the Russians have damaged their fishing gear by cutting through it, would the minister request the