purchased for the Prime Minister was considerably higher than the vehicle could have been obtained for, from another firm? Was it purchased from the same company which supplied the seven vehicles for the Summit, bought a couple of year ago and which are apparently now proving to be defective in a number of areas?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it was purchased from the same company, General Motors, and it was armourized by the same company that armourized those other vehicles. I am not aware of defects showing up on the other vehicles. I would be very interested to look into that and to have information from the Hon. Member about that.

Miss MacDonald: Does it have a short term lease?

COST OF CONTRACT

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I would be more than happy to share with the Minister the telegram I have, which indicates that two of those vehicles are defective. There have been four more cars tendered, three of which were awarded again to Hesse-Eisenhardt at a cost of $95,728 U.S. per vehicle. Is it true that another equally capable corporation had a bid in for $65,924 U.S. per vehicle? If so, why was the tender of some $30,000 less not accepted for the vehicles?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the contract was sole source and not put up for tender. The company chosen was, in the opinion of the RCMP, the only firm in North America capable of doing the job to the standard which the RCMP required.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

U.S.S.R.—DOWNING OF KOREAN AIRLINER—CANADIAN DEMAND FOR EXPLANATION

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Relations. It is now over six months since the Korean jetliner was downed. On September 12, 1983, the House unanimously passed a resolution which condemned the unwarranted attack resulting in the destruction of the Korean airliner on the orders of Soviet authorities, and demanded a full and truthful explanation of this brutal act from the Soviet Government. What reply has the Government in fact had from the Soviet Government? Has there been any explanation to date?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, Canada has made its position on this subject eminently clear to the Soviet Union and has repeated it. We feel it is up to the Soviet Union to respond and indicate what action they are going to take by way of compensation. To this date they have not given any indication that they will provide compensation.

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. On the evening of September 12 the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in the House that the Soviet leadership must abandon its current stonewalling and come clean about this terrible hit and run tragedy. He then referred to what our ambassador to the United Nations had said, including calling the downing of the—

Mr. Speaker: Will the Hon. Member please ask his question?

Mr. Stevens: —jet murder. What is the position of the Government today? Is the downing of this jet still murder? Has the Government any plans in position to ensure compensation for the relatives of the victims?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is fully aware of the record of the reaction of the Government to the very serious loss of life in the KAL Jetliner. The Government of Canada took a very firm position on the matter. Our position remains the same. Our demand for compensation from the Soviet Union is not only justified but is still in full effect. The Soviet Union is fully aware of our position.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

INCLUSION OF HOMEMAKERS

Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, if I can get his attention. The Montreal *Gazette* of March 20 quotes the Minister as follows:

> We agree to the inclusion of homemakers in the Canada Pension Plan and to the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

I have two questions. Is it now Government policy to include homemakers in the Canada Pension Plan? What does the Minister mean by "expansion of the Canada Pension Plan"?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have indicated that we were going to put on the agenda with the provinces the question of homemakers' pensions under the Canada Pension Plan. I remind the Hon. Member that we have already taken steps with a number of specific measures we want to propose concerning the Canada Pension Plan. One particular measure is the immediate introduction of credit splitting, either at the time of marriage breakup or at age 65. These measures indicate a readiness to consider ways of ensuring that homemakers will have a direct right to pensions under the Canada Pension Plan.

● (1500)

As to further expansions, again we are ready to discuss this with the provinces but, as the Hon. Member knows, we require the agreement of two-thirds of the provinces with two-thirds of