

Oral Questions

building policies that the Government promised shipyard workers last year?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member, as he knows, the Government now has under review a shipbuilding program that we hope will be helpful. We are having ongoing discussions with certain representatives of the shipbuilding industry both on the labour side and on the management side and I think that the Hon. Member will be most pleased with what we are hoping to be able to work out in the coming weeks.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS**REVIEW OF CLAIMS POLICY**

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As the Minister knows, the Macdonald Commission Report called for an accelerated pace in the settlement of aboriginal claims. Last July the Minister asked for a full review of the claims policy. Can the Minister now tell the House if he expects that review of the claims policy to be completed on time by the end of November? When he receives the policy will he refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development so that the committee can have its analysis and provide some input to the Minister on this important subject?

● (1450)

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm to the Hon. Member that the task force report should be ready by the end of November. I met with the chairman of the task force last week. He indicated that he is on schedule. Thus, I expect it will be available by November 30.

With respect to its disposition, first, it will be a public report. Personally, I have no difficulty with the matter being discussed by the standing committee. I think the appropriate approach would be for me to invite discussion from the Hon. Member, the New democratic Party and other associated groups who have a concern with it, after it has been made public.

ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY—OFFSHORE RESOURCES INQUIRY

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, since the review of this claims policy is not yet complete, and in view of the re-awakened concern in Canada with respect to Arctic sovereignty, will the Minister recommend to the group conducting the review that it give serious consideration to including in that review the possibility of the Inuit people of Canada negotiating a right to offshore resources, as well as to land resources?

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I think that is an excellent idea. At the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Montreal at the end of last week, I indicated that idea as a part of the terms of reference of the original task force. Thus, there was no difficulty with respect to the task force taking that matter into consideration. I have urged the task force in that respect. I expect its recommendations will contain a consideration of that point.

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EXTERNAL AID**MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE—CANADIAN ASSISTANCE**

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Last year 500,000 Canadians gave an average of \$65 per person for African relief projects. They were encouraged in this respect by the Government matching them dollar for dollar. Considering the desire of Canadians from coast to coast to help in a practical way with the devastation which has taken place in Mexico following two earthquakes, will the Government announce a similar program of aid which would match dollar for dollar the contributions made by individual Canadians?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, last week I announced the Government's intentions. This morning, I had a meeting with the Mexican Ambassador, who conveyed us his country's heartfelt thanks because Canada was the first country to take action following the earthquake.

We certainly urge all Canadians to show their generosity, but we think, and I personally think that the proposed matching, dollar for dollar, would not be the right approach, since it is a very special situation and we should preferably think in terms of twinning projects and consider new formulas for assistance.

[English]

CANCELLATION OF LOAN BY INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I regret the Government's decision. I think it important to encourage this type of contribution by matching aid.

My supplementary question is also to the Prime Minister. Has Canada made any representations to the International Monetary Fund to bring about a degree of sanity and compassion to that organization as a result of it cancelling a \$450 million loan to Mexico on the very day of the earthquake? If Canada has not made representations, when will it?