

indicated that the Canadian route was better documented than the El Paso route.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO PROTESTS FROM P.L.O. ON POSTPONEMENT OF CRIME CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Can the minister tell the House if there are any new developments with regard to the PLO, in view of their protests against the fact that the crime conference will not be held in Toronto, next September, as previously planned?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not received any protest from the PLO.

INQUIRY AS TO UNITED NATIONS DECISION ON REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CRIME CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is my understanding that the UN Committee on Conferences was meeting this morning to come to a conclusion regarding the Canadian request to postpone the conference in Toronto in September. I wonder whether the minister would be good enough to let the House and the public know what was the conclusion of that committee and what the attitude of the government now is in respect of that determination?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Well, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Conferences I believe met for the third time this morning, and will meet tomorrow afternoon. No final conclusions have been reached, although there has been a developing consensus in favour of not postponing the conference and holding it in another venue in September, but no final decision has been made as yet.

ALLEGATION ARGENTINA DIVERTED PLUTONIUM WASTE FROM NUCLEAR POWER STATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to ask him what action Canada has taken in light of the report by United States intelligence sources that Argentina has diverted some 50 kilograms of plutonium waste from its Atucha atomic power station, an amount sufficient to produce five atomic bombs. What attitude is the Government of Canada taking in respect of this?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, our attitude with regard

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to the question of nuclear proliferation is conditioned by our effort to secure with Argentina the most rigid safeguards possible. As the hon. member knows we have not yet completed our bilateral discussion with Argentina. There are a number of outstanding items still to be determined which are in the process of negotiation.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary again for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am wondering whether the minister can tell us whether or not the Government of Canada has been in consultation with the Government of the United States and whether in fact it is true that Argentina has diverted this amount of plutonium from one of its stations so that it could in fact, build atomic bombs.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, in general, of course, Canada and the United States as part of the exporter group have been consulting generally on these questions, but on this particular point I would have to check and will do so.

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ENERGY

FUNDY TIDAL POWER PROJECT—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROGRESS OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources further to questions I posed to him yesterday. I wonder whether he is in a position now to give me an up-to-date report on the activities of the Fundy Tidal Power Review Committee.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The report is not very precise, except to say that the federal-provincial study on the development of the Bay of Fundy tidal power is moving ahead under the supervision of the Bay of Fundy Tidal Power Review Board. Current activity is with regard to settlement of a specific investigation and study program, and it is expected that the new studies will be completed within the deadline envisaged in the September 1974 report summary on the question.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minister will take some time during the recess—which will come later today—to visit Nova Scotia and derive some of the benefits that were available to his forefathers down there. I wonder whether, during that visit, he would take some time to come into Amherst and look at the maritime resources management services which are sponsored by the Council of Maritime Premiers and look at the facilities they have there as well as take a look at Springhill and what is available there in the way of coal for the development of new coal mines. I would be happy to make the arrangements for him if he would be willing to co-operate.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am most obliged to the hon. gentleman. My plans include a rather broader perspective of the whole estuary rather than a visit to Amherst, but I will certainly consider whether it