

encourage farmers to join Canfarm, that would be the simplest solution.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SITUATION IN POLAND—POSSIBLE SOVIET INTERVENTION—
INQUIRY RESPECTING COUNTER-MEASURES

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and it is supplementary to that of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us whether the NATO ministerial meeting discussed in any detail potential forms of NATO reaction?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I think the most I can say on that is that there was a very general discussion of all the possibilities of action and reaction and that there was a strong consensus on the part of the ministers.

Mr. Clark: Was it the position of the Government of Canada as represented by the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of National Defence at these NATO ministerial meetings, as distinct from the very general discussion the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated ensued, that no specific discussion should be undertaken, and was that a minority position?

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, we did not take any minority positions; we were always in the majority. In fact, there was unanimity in all of the questions discussed. I think perhaps the best way I can answer the question of the right hon. member is to say that there was agreement that foreign ministers would be called immediately on the intensification of the crisis and that that would be the appropriate time for decision-making on what courses of action should be taken.

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PENITENTIARIES

DORCHESTER, N.B.—ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLENCE—
CONFIRMATION IN REPORT OF SPECIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and it concerns recent very serious allegations of violence at Dorchester penitentiary. The Solicitor General has, up until now, categorically denied allegations that following the tragic hostage-taking incident on the D-4 range at Dorchester, prisoners on that tier were subjected to physical and mental torture, that they were stripped and handcuffed with their arms extended through cell bars and then maced and beaten about the hands for some five or six hours. The minister stated that he was relying upon eye witness reports of the warden and the fact, as he put it, that the RCMP were present at all material times.

Oral Questions

Will the Minister now confirm that the RCMP were not in fact present at all material times, as he has stated, and that these very serious allegations of violence have been substantiated by the confidential special inquiry report of his own inspector general; and what action does the minister intend to take as a result of this very serious confirmation?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, my understanding from the information I have is that there was an RCMP officer present at all material times. I know that there certainly was an RCMP officer there for a great deal of the time following that incident. I can and will check into whether an RCMP officer was there for the five hours which the hon. member suggests were material.

As to allegations respecting whether further incidents or any incidents of violence took place, I repeat what I said before. I have the report of the inspector general to which the hon. member referred, and no such incidents following the release of the hostages in that five-hour period have been substantiated.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I too have a copy of the confidential special inquiry report, and the minister has misled the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): The special inquiry report states, for example, and I quote:

There is little doubt that many inmates were maced because they did not react to commands immediately and that they did not do so because they could not hear properly what was being said through the gas masks.

There was rough and unprofessional behaviour. Many inmates were beaten about the hands for some five or six hours. The RCMP were not present for the critical period of time. That is what this special inquiry report states.

In view of that and in view of the fact that until now the minister has stated that these very serious allegations should be substantiated by an independent source and that the allegations have been substantiated by his own inspector general, is the Solicitor General now prepared to appoint a fully independent judicial inquiry to get to the bottom of this serious incident and the other serious incidents which have taken place at Dorchester so far?

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, I have not seen the language the hon. member read. He says he has a copy of the report. I thought I had a copy of the report as well. I took a quick look through it this morning. I would be very glad to see the copy of what the hon. member says is a report, to look through it and make a statement to the House about it.