

Has the government, in their meetings with the pilots or air controllers, managed to make them understand that the province of Quebec is an important province from the French point of view on an international basis in that it is, I believe, the third or fourth in rank among Francophone entities in the world? Do Anglophone pilots understand that they are not being kept from speaking English with the Quebec control towers? Far from it, they get their answers in English. But do they understand that two Francophone employees can discuss freely together, either from air to ground or ground to air, without anyone objecting to their use of French, just as we are not opposed to their using English in other Canadian provinces?

Mr. Trudeau: I thank the hon. member because, in the first part of his question, I believe, he states a fact which unfortunately has been distorted by adverse propaganda. The fact of the matter is that no one forces the pilots to speak French or to learn it so they can use it when they fly into Quebec. English remains the language they can use in Quebec as well as in Ottawa, Edmonton, Madrid or Rome. But they must be made to understand that, just as they accept to speak English and hear Spanish spoken when they get to Spain, they should be able to speak English while hearing French when they get to Quebec.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a final supplementary.

I fully share the Prime Minister's opinion on that matter, but how come he could not succeed and convince his former colleague and ex-minister, the hon. member for Langelier, of the reasonableness of what he has just stated in the House?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Social Credit leader should know that it was not because he could not understand that that the Minister of Environment has resigned from the government, it is mostly because of his irritation at the systematic and voluntary inability to understand that by other Canadians.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 200-MILE FISHING ZONE

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for St. John's East. The minister has confirmed on a number of occasions that the 200 mile limit will be implemented on January 1, 1977. As negotiations between Canada and France with regard to St. Pierre and Miquelon are hanging in the air, can the minister advise the House and the country when there will be a meeting with France on this important question? How many meetings have been held? Have any meetings been held with France since 1972 on this question?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it will be necessary for the Canadian negotiators to have a meeting with the French

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authorities before the coming into effect of the extended jurisdiction. There are quite a number of meetings and quite a number of negotiations in play. We hope it will be possible to fit in a meeting with the French authorities before the coming into effect of the extended jurisdiction.

Mr. Marshall: Has the minister been officially notified by the French government as to their intention to extend the 200 mile limit off St. Pierre and Miquelon?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I have had no official communication indicating the intention of the French government with regard to such an extension.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON PARTICIPATION OF TAIWANESE ATHLETES

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister inform the House of the government's reaction to the statement of the International Olympic Committee Board in the form of a direct appeal to the government "to review its attitude in keeping its word, and hold it entirely responsible for any harm which the olympic movement may suffer"? That statement was made with regard to athletes from the Republic of China. What was the government's reaction to that statement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the best answer to the olympic committee and indeed to members of this House and the country who have shown concern, is that it is not our policy nor our practice to bar any athletes from the games. We welcome the athletes from Taiwan. We hope they will compete. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race or, indeed, national origin.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: All we are saying, and it seems to me this is a policy that would have the support of any member of this House regardless of his party provided he believes in a one China policy, is that we will not let athletes come into Canada under false representations and to pretend that they represent a country, China, that they do not represent. That is all we are saying.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: Will the Prime Minister explain how his attitude has changed with regard to athletes from the Republic of China compared with delegates from the PLO who attended the Habitat Conference? He stated at that time that other people made the decision about who would be the delegates at international conferences. Why not in this particular instance?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question was answered about two or three days ago.