

*Oral Questions*

teer proposal made by Dr. Cohn with the Guatemalan authorities and at the present time the advice is it would not be appropriate to add to what seems to be already developing adequate medical assistance when considered in relation to the ability of the Guatemalan government to provide the necessary logistical support.

GUATEMALA—AVAILABILITY OF FIELD HOSPITAL UNIT TO AID EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** I have a final supplementary question for the minister and I direct it to him in the absence of the Minister of National Defence. Given the commitment made by the government in its white paper entitled "Defence in the '70s" to have at the ready a mobile field facility for such disasters, I should like to ask the minister if we have now in Canada such a facility which could be transported almost at a moment's notice if so requested.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, without replying directly to what was in the defence white paper, I should tell the hon. member that at the present time a Canada forces Hercules is carrying 18 tons of milk powder to Guatemala, a Canadian forces Boeing 707 will carry additional milk powder arriving today, and another 18 tons will be sent by a Canadian forces Hercules aircraft as well. These three flights have been provided for—

**Mr. Broadbent:** What about my question?

**Mr. MacEachen:** —by the armed forces.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. With all due respect, it seems to me that the minister is answering a question that was not asked.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

**INDUSTRY**

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY ON FOOTWEAR

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

On a number of occasions I have drawn the attention of the House to the serious problems which increasingly affect the Canadian footwear industry. Since the situation has been getting worse, the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada has been in touch with the minister to ask for a meeting at the earliest possible moment. Could the minister inform the House whether he is aware of this request and, at the same time, clarify the issue by indicating where the case is now resting?

[English]

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of a request for a meeting and I have indicated that I am quite prepared

[Mr. MacEachen.]

to meet with them. I do not have an actual date set as yet but it will be in the very near future.

[Translation]

SUGGESTED LIMITATION ON FOOTWEAR IMPORTS

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** I have a supplementary question.

Since one of the major problems facing the footwear industry in Canada seems to be that imports are allowed to invade our market more and more, while our production declined by 18 per cent in 1975, can the minister inform the House whether he intends to take the necessary steps to restrict these imports in order to support this important Canadian industry?

[English]

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, it is essentially a question of determining in the first instance whether in fact an added degree of tariff protection would provide the desired result. Of course, that has to be considered also in the context of our general international trading patterns and a whole series of related questions. There is a view being expressed that tariffs alone may not be the solution. In fact we have moved within the past few months to bring the footwear industry, or certain portions of it, within a general policy of rationalization which the government undertook some time ago. But these matters are all ones which I hope to clarify when I meet with the shoe manufacturers. If it is purely and simply a tariff matter, then of course we can look at it from that point of view. But I repeat, there are those who feel that the problem goes significantly deeper than that.

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**ENERGY**

LOCATION OF SITES IN OTTAWA AREA CONTAMINATED BY RADIOACTIVE WASTE

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of reports today that there are several sites in the Ottawa area contaminated by radioactive waste material. In light of the gravity of the reports, I am sure the minister has acquainted himself with them and has sought some answers. I wonder if the minister might advise what are the exact parameters of the areas contaminated by radioactive material in the Ottawa area and their proximity to the polluted areas.

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that there are a number of assorted sites in the Ottawa area where radioactive levels have been identified. I can assure the House, based on the information that I have received, that there is no public health question involved. As to the precise location of these areas, I hope to be able to make those public when I provide the list which I have already indicated to the House I will do with respect to locations in Ontario and other locations in Canada as well.