

multiplier spin-off, would create 110 million man-hours of employment or 55,000 jobs, many of which would be in Ontario and Quebec, in manufacturing, engineering and other professional services.

I want from the minister his commitment that this employment and economic project will not be delayed one full year while the minister talks about interim agreements, when these two projects need concurrence by August 1.

Mr. Lalonde: Again, Madam Speaker, I have had the opportunity of meeting with officials of Alsands and discussing this matter with them. The hon. member also knows, from the past, that the problem with regard to Alsands has not been with the federal government but has been with the government of Alberta which has up to now refused authorization to proceed with the Alsands project.

An hon. Member: Who invoked the force majeure?

Mr. Lalonde: If the government of Alberta gives the proper authorization, I am sure the Alsands group will be very eager to proceed. As a matter of fact, they have decided, as the hon. member knows, to proceed this year with expenditures without even having firm authorization from the government of Alberta to proceed. I think that is a clear indication of where the responsibility lies at the present time.

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● (1425)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT—OBJECTION TO CONFERENCE ON ARMAMENTS BEING HELD IN OTTAWA

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the government's commitment in the Speech from the Throne to world peace and disarmament, and the pending appointment of an ambassador for disarmament, can the minister tell the House why the Canadian government is hosting a secret armaments conference sponsored by the American Defence Preparedness Association here in Ottawa at the Government Conference Centre from June 24 to June 26?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, it is not the Canadian government that is the host of this conference; it is the American Defence Preparedness Association. We happen to be involved in assisting them because we believe that Canada has an interest in seeing that that conference takes place successfully.

RCMP REPORT ON SPACE RESEARCH CORPORATION

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I beg to differ: the government is hosting the conference and has made available the Conference Centre in order that the conference might take place on the minister's

Oral Questions

permission. A number of senior officials from National Defence, Space Research Corporation and IT & C are taking part. Speaking of Space Research Corporation, I would like to address my supplementary question to the Minister of Justice or, in his absence, the acting minister or the Prime Minister if he is interested.

In view of the participation of Space Research Corporation in this secret armaments conference, and in view of its recent conviction in the United States courts for illegally selling arms to South Africa in violation of the UN arms embargo, will the minister or the Prime Minister inform the House why the RCMP report on the activities of Space Research Corporation has been kept secret and when, if ever, it will be released?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of most of the facts to which the hon. member has referred, but I will be happy to take note of the question on behalf of the minister.

Miss Jewett: Madam Speaker, I shall then ask a question of a minister who is present, the Minister of Supply and Services. Can the minister confirm recent reports that the government is considering having Canadian Arsenals Limited acquire a substantial interest in Space Research Corporation, and whether that interest will include the 20 per cent that is now owned by the South African government's armaments corporation, Armscor?

Will he, further, tell the House what contracts government departments or agencies currently have with Space Research Corporation?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, with reference to the first part of the hon. lady's question, this is a matter which is to go before cabinet; therefore, I would hope that the hon. lady would wait until the end of this month in order to permit me to bring the matter before cabinet, which will enable me to be in a position to provide further information to the House.

With regard to the second portion of the hon. lady's question, I would like to take notice of it and I will provide the information at a later date.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, UNITED KINGDOM

Madam Speaker: I should like to draw the attention of members of the House to the presence in our gallery of the hon. Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, of the United Kingdom.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!