

*Oral Questions***BRAZIL**

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Two Canadians have been sentenced to 28 years in a Brazilian prison for a crime they might not have committed. Having met this morning with the Lamonts and Spencer and hearing their plea to bring their children back to Canada, will the minister now do the proper thing, pursuant to Brazilian law, and immediately request the Brazilian government to expel Ms. Lamont and Mr. Spencer?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did meet with the Lamonts this morning and with Mr. Spencer. The Prime Minister had a conversation with Mrs. Lamont as well in Vancouver.

As I explained to them, we are going to take a look at the situation with regard to the severity of the sentence that was brought about on appeal.

I certainly understand how the parents of these people feel, and I have stated that in this House before. I have asked our Canadian ambassador to Brazil today to meet with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs as soon as possible, preferably today, to express our concern about the severity of the sentences. I have asked our departmental legal advisers, who met with the lawyers for the Lamonts and Spencers yesterday, to examine the information that they brought. We are waiting for a transcript of the recent judgment which gave what we consider to be an excessively severe sentence.

When that is all in my hands, I will then make a judgment as to action that we will take.

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JUSTICE

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, a short supplementary.

Ten years ago, Sidney Jaffe was kidnapped in Toronto and abducted to Florida. As a result, his wife was awarded damages by the Ontario courts and she now seeks to enforce this damage award in the courts of Florida.

My question is this: Why does the justice department refuse to issue an executive letter to help the Jaffes recover the huge expenses they incurred as a result of crimes committed against them in Canada? Why does this government refuse to come to the aid of Canadian citizens and help them obtain foreign redress?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the department and I have neither refused nor accepted. This issue has been brought to my attention and I have asked for more information.

The principle that is raised by the Jaffe case is an important one where a Canadian was actually taken by a bounty hunter out of Canada as opposed to using the extradition process. That principle is now before the Supreme Court of the United States in the context of another case. I in fact have instructed my officials to enter an *amicus curiae* brief to argue in that case against that principle in the hope that in the future there will be some support from the American Supreme Court against those actions by the American government.

With respect to the Jaffe case, I am reviewing it and I have asked my department for more information about it.

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PUBLIC SERVICE 2000

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, in his report, the Auditor General expressed support for the over-all thrust of the Public Service 2000 renewal initiative, but noted some concerns about its eventual implementation.

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I would like to ask the President of the Treasury Board, given that PS 2000 was announced by the Prime Minister some two years ago and given that Bill C-26 was tabled almost six months ago, will this government continue to pursue this reform as one of its top priorities?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his question.