

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, given the question of my hon. friend, I thought the answer was very clear. I regret that my hon. friend did not agree.

In the communications we have had on this very important subject, we have conveyed the views of the Government of Canada in regard to the steps which we believe ought to be taken to secure further reductions in the possible deployment of nuclear arms.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs set out very carefully the manner in which Canada has recommended that the alliance and that General Secretary Gorbachev pursue this. My recommendations and views expressed to both sides have been consistent with that policy as set out clearly by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

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[Translation]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON DEMOLITION OF  
SENNETERRE RADAR BASE IN ABITIBI**

**Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Associate Minister of National Defence.

The economic development of Senneterre in Abitibi is dependent on three major components: forestry, rail transport, and the Canadian Armed Forces Base.

Since it was announced in 1985 that the radar base would be dismantled in August 1988, the Senneterre economic recovery committee and I have been making concerted efforts to find a solution.

My question is this: Can the Minister confirm today that a private Montreal firm has made a study to estimate the cost of dismantling the base? If so, could the expenditures involved be transferred to the municipality by the municipal council of Senneterre which wants to keep the base because of the socio-economic impact the dismantling would have on local residents who have no other facilities and would make use of those already on the base, including the swimming pool, the curling rink and the community centre?

● (1500)

[English]

**Hon. Paul Dick (Associate Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, there has been a study conducted by a Montreal firm. We have an estimate on how much it would cost to demolish the base. We would have to be released by the Province of Quebec if we were not to undertake demolition, and have that assigned to another party in case they did not maintain the facility as it is.

We are willing to look at any proposal put forward by any of the municipalities in the areas where the 17 bases that are being closed are concerned.

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**ENERGY****ELECTRICITY SALES TO UNITED STATES—PURCHASES BY  
SPECIFIED PROVINCES**

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

The Minister of Energy wants to deregulate electricity sales to the United States. If the provinces dependent upon this electricity do not have the option to purchase at least a portion of this electricity at a reasonable price, they will be placed in a very devastating position, for example, a province such as Prince Edward Island which already has the highest electricity prices in Canada.

Why is the Government deregulating electricity sales to the United States, and thereby placing provinces such as Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, in the difficult position of not knowing if they will be able to get electricity at a reasonable price, or even if they are going to be able to get electricity at all?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, why would the Member make such a preposterous suggestion when, in point of fact, at the First Ministers' Conference 10 days ago, Premier Bourassa announced that he had just concluded an arrangement to supply hydro-electricity to the Province of New Brunswick at very favourable terms? In other circumstances he has indicated that this would be the policy of his Government, and the policy of Governments across the country.

At that same First Ministers' Conference, and here in the House of Commons, I indicated the willingness of the Government of Canada to work with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Government of the Province of Quebec, in respect of Churchill Falls and related developments, precisely to ensure further availability of electricity that could be made available in these circumstances to the benefit of Canadian provinces.

**GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister to study this question a little more. He will realize that, for one thing, the sale to New Brunswick is only for six years.

The Minister of Energy states that he will not duplicate any regulations placed by the provinces, even if those provinces