

Oral Questions

May but indicated of course that if one were to be held we would certainly consider favourably the opportunity to participate in it. As of now, there has been no date announced. I believe the NATO Council is meeting tomorrow at Brussels and we will know whether or not the summit meeting is to take place at the end of May.

● (1440)

Mr. McKinnon: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The right hon. gentleman again distorted somewhat the answer of the Acting Prime Minister on April 10, as noted in *Hansard* when he dealt only with the timing. Does the Prime Minister not now agree that the changing situation in respect of Portugal, Italy, Greece and Turkey requires NATO consultation at the highest level to affirm once again our cohesion and common destiny?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, this certainly is a very important and urgent situation that is developing. Really the only question is the timing for that particular meeting. The fact that the hon. member mentioned two countries which already have indicated they would not be represented at the summit makes one wonder if it will be all that important to have the council sitting at that particular time. I repeat that the Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed his views on that to various people, including Secretary Kissinger. We are not holding back on the meeting which is not confirmed. We think there should be one. The only question is one of timing so that there would be sufficient preparation for it. If the meeting should take place, which is hypothetical, I assure the hon. member that this government will be represented at the summit.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Victoria on a final supplementary.

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the right hon. gentleman could explain his statement about me mentioning two countries which will not be attending. I was quoting the President of the United States who intends to attend this conference to "affirm once again our cohesion and common destiny".

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

COMPLAINT OF CORPORALS COX AND MATERIE CONCERNING ALLEGED BREACH OF SECURITY—POSSIBILITY MINISTER BEING SUED

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Has he received any complaints from Corporal Cox and Corporal Materie members of the National Crime Intelligence section which complaint alleged that there has been a very serious breach of security? Has he received that complaint and what was the nature of the security breach?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I do not recall the names. Would the hon. member tell me whether this was recent or some time back?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, it has been in the last year. I might put the question to him—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In the light of that, perhaps the hon. member might better seek that information in another way.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister been sued in the Federal Court because of a breach of security? Has he been served with a statement of claim in this regard?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, from time to time I receive complaints from members or ex-members of the RCMP. I have been sued by some individuals. I cannot recall names. I will have to look at the records in order to find this information.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

MERCURY POISONING OF NATIVES AT WHITE DOG AND GRASSY NARROWS RESERVES—GOVERNMENT ACTION ON ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the evidence that at the White Dog and Grassy Narrows reserves, out of 17 Indians examined, Dr. Newberry found 15 to be suffering from Minamoto disease or mercury poisoning, would the minister advise the House what arrangements he has now made after his belated acknowledgement that they should not eat the fish to see if there are some other alternative protein sources for those bands. Second, what arrangements have been made for alternate employment or an alternate livelihood beyond welfare.

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I indicated in an earlier reply to the hon. member that we felt the logical alternate employment would be a move to another location. That has been discussed with Chief Keewatin on the Grassy Narrows Reserve. He and his band were utterly opposed to making that move, so unfortunately that alternate is not available. We are pursuing the other aspect with my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare to see if there are some other short-term arrangements we can make.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary may I ask the minister whether he would advise what steps his department has taken to ensure that the native people on those reserves will receive adequate compensation from those responsible for the destruction of their livelihood because of mercury poisoning? What steps has he taken to assist the Indians to help themselves to obtain just compensation for the destruction of their livelihood.

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, when I met with them last fall I discussed the possibility of taking the company involved to court.