

mortgage and 13 per cent for a second mortgage so as to pay back the government to reduce that interest loan, what will the minister do to alleviate the problem faced by the people who are leaving these homes in droves? The minister should not ignore this problem and he should not tell us that it is 95 per cent successful, because it is not.

Mr. Cosgrove: Madam Speaker, the answer to the second question is much easier. I am sure my hon. friend has forgotten that in March of last year, in response to the problem that he indicated, CMHC through the ministry indicated that we will accept on an individual basis requests in hardship cases to ensure that that portion of a person's income which exceeds 30 per cent would be reviewed, and that those hardship cases would have the same availability to the earlier program. That was the design of the program when it was announced five years ago.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTHEAST ASIA—ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. A year and a half ago, the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion introduced by the hon. member for Matane concerning the situation in Cambodia. It proposed that all members of the Canadian Parliament express their horror at that genocide, which is one of the worst crimes in the history of mankind, and asked all parliamentarians and governments which maintain relations with our country to protest against that slaughter which has astounded the entire world.

[English]

On Monday of this week Canada voted at the United Nations in favour of seating representatives of the infamous Pol Pot regime, apparently following the advice of our Southeast Asian friends who see the Pol Pot guerrillas as a means of keeping Viet Nam off balance.

My question is directed to the minister. By what norms of human decency has Canada seen fit to follow the faulty and self-interested advice of our friends in Southeast Asia and not Canada's collective conscience on this vote, the only practical result of which will be to prolong the agony of the Cambodian people? Will the minister at least undertake, in the circumstances, to hear the other side of the story from representatives of the Heng Samrin regime and Vietnam?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, Canada frequently has condemned the human rights abuses of the Pol Pot regime. I can state quite plainly in the House, as we have stated before, that we would not want to see a Pol Pot government again in power in Kampuchea. But we voted this week in the United Nations for

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the Pol Pot regime for a very limited purpose, and that is to continue its seating in the United Nations.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacGuigan: I wonder whether members opposite who have been applauding are applauding for the Heng Samrin regime or for Viet Nam, the aggressor.

The reason we cast this vote for representation is precisely because any alternative would be far worse. To approve the Heng Samrin regime and the Vietnamese aggressors in Kampuchea who are supporting that regime certainly would not be an improvement. We do not condone such aggression. We are working with the nations of Southeast Asia in the hope of reaching a political solution which will see another government eventually in power in that country.

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● (1450)

GARRISON DIVERSION

SUGGESTED LOBBY BY ALL-PARTY DELEGATION

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I have here a copy of the tender call for construction of the New Rockford Canal portion of the Garrison Diversion Unit, construction of which will be of benefit to North Dakota only if the entire project is completed, which will, of course cause irreparable damage to Manitoba's fisheries and environment.

Since diplomatic channels have clearly been unsuccessful in protecting Canadian and Manitoba interests in this matter, is the minister now prepared to explore more convincing tactics in bilateral negotiation, such as face-to-face lobbying by an all-party Canadian delegation that could forcefully and convincingly show our friends to the south how seriously Canadians are concerned about this matter?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we have accepted the support of members of Parliament of all parties with regard to any lobbying on the subject they would wish to do with American legislators. In fact, over the past week we have made representations to the government of the United States with respect to the way in which they propose to spend this money that has been allocated by congress. We have the assurance of the U.S. government that the money will not be used to advance the construction in any way that would harm Canadian interests. However, we submitted an additional diplomatic note to request details so that we may be assured of this.

Mr. Sargeant: Madam Speaker, in 1977 the International Joint Commission handed down its report on the trans-boundary implications of the Garrison Diversion, a report which was very sympathetic to Canadian interest. Over three years have passed since then. Is the minister now in a position to tell this