Canada Post implements a meaningful consultation with the community? Will the Government stop those closures now?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, again the Hon. Member is giving me advice contrary to that offered by his colleague, the former Postmaster General, the Hon. Member for Papineau, who says it is important that there not be political interference in the operation of the Post Office.

The intent of the passage of the Canada Post Corporations Act in 1981 was that the corporation should act free of the kind of political interference now being encouraged by the Hon. Member. Without taking the Hon. Member's list as fact at all, I will certainly pass the Hon. Member's representation on to Canada Post.

[*Translation*]

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. I should like to know whether he will take his responsibilities as Minister responsible for Canada Post, and I should like to know when Canada Post will implement the recommendation of the House committee which reads as follows, and I quote:

> (a) that no closure of a rural post office, or change in postal service, be undertaken without meaningful consultation and the consent of the community affected;

When will you implement this policy?

• (1440)

[*English*]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Hon. Member was out of the House at the time or perhaps he has not checked the records. That particular committee report was responded to in full. The report was tabled in the House. I suggest that the Hon. Member look it up.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will know, I am sure, that many Canadians are dismayed that Canada continues to test the Cruise missile, and more dismayed at the short notice which is given of these testings. The next one is to take place tomorrow.

I want to ask the Prime Minister this. Why does Canada continue to test the Cruise missile, given that there has been progress? When will the Government return to the view that it formerly held that if there was progress in the talks with respect to disarmament that Canada would cease testing the Cruise missile?

Hon. Pat Carney (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that the testing of the Cruise missile has never been tied to the achievement of the INF reduction in Europe. That point has been made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

I also want to point out that the test that is taking place is fully in compliance with the agreement.

POSSIBLE HALT OF TESTING—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, that is not the view that the Government once held. It is not what it led Canadians to believe.

So I have to ask the Government this, and I hope that the Prime Minister will respond. Under what conditions will the Canadian Government agree to stop the Cruise testing? Or will it be forever moving the goal post back with respect to the conditions under which Canada will stop testing the Cruise?

Hon. Pat Carney (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first, the testing that is being carried out is fully consistent and represents no change in government policy between this Government and the former one.

To respond to the Hon. Member's question I would like to repeat the remarks made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs last week when he said that one of the reasons we were able to get the Soviets to the table was that they knew it was not going to be possible to split the Alliance. It is important, in our judgment, that commitments made by the Alliance be kept by the Alliance if we want to continue to make progress on arms control. That is the Government's position.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CANCEL INVOLVEMENT IN TESTS

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the Government's decision to allow further testing of the Cruise missile in Canada tomorrow by the U.S. Government. Yesterday, in Brussels, the U.S. Foreign Secretary said that, summit or no summit, an INF agreement will be signed by the two superpowers.

Given the fact that there was a linkage between Canada's decision in 1983 to test Cruise and our solidarity with the NATO Alliance to get the Russians to take away the SS-20s from eastern Europe, why does the Government continue to deny that linkage? Why does it not simply tell the Government of the United States that it no longer wishes to be involved in Cruise missile testing in Canada?

Hon. Pat Carney (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think that is a strange observation