

the salary entitlement payable to Mr. Mackness by the Finance Department will be paid directly to the Bank of Nova Scotia. In turn, Mr. Mackness will continue to receive his normal salary and employee benefits from the Bank.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has agreed to make Mr. Mackness available on full loan to the Department of Finance, on an exclusive basis, for a one-year period beginning November 12, 1984. The Mackness appointment is patterned on procedures established for the "Executive Exchange" program. Mr. Mackness has no other corporate connections. Mr. Mackness has taken the Oath of Office and Secrecy and is subject to the Public Service Conflict of Interest Guidelines. Additionally, he has placed his assets and those of his wife under blind trust arrangements and has made related disclosures to the Registrar General.

DISARMAMENT

DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the next delayed answer is to a question raised in the Senate on January 24, 1985, by the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Leader of the Opposition, regarding government policy with respect to disarmament and deployment of nuclear weapons.

(The answer follows:)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has not "unthinkingly embraced the Strategic Defence Initiative". Mr. Clark stated quite explicitly that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn at this time from a research program. The research itself does not of itself contravene the provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty or the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. In the light of Soviet advances in this type of research, it is only prudent that the West explore the feasibility of such projects. Further, we have reassurance from President Reagan that the USA would not proceed beyond the research stage without discussion and negotiation.

In the interim, Canada will keep an open mind on the issue and will offer the fullest support for USA-USSR efforts to reach agreement on equitable and mutual reductions in their respective nuclear forces.

On the question of nuclear weapons, Canada has no plans to allow nuclear weapons on Canadian soil without the prior consent of the Government of Canada.

With regard to Canada-USA consultations in the event of a crisis, the SSEA has instructed officials to initiate a process which will resolve the issues recently raised with regard to Canadian and USA contingency plans, with particular reference to nuclear weapons deployment. The result will reaffirm Canadian sovereignty in this crucial area.

[Senator Roblin.]

As the Honourable senator knows from his own lengthy experience as SSEA, there can be no open debate or discussion of the details of contingency plans or the consultations related thereto. Such matters are crucial both to national and NATO security due to their central role in deterrence, a role which would be compromised if details were available to Warsaw Pact military planners.

As the SSEA is already pursuing this matter, there are no plans to place it on the agenda for discussion by Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan in March.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IRAN—PERSECUTION OF BAHAI'S

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): The next delayed answer is to a question raised in the Senate on February 5, 1985, by the Honourable Jerahmiel Grafstein regarding foreign affairs—Iran—persecution of Baha'is.

(The answer follows:)

Senator Grafstein cited a press report which quoted an official representative of Iran as saying that his government would not hesitate to violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Canadian Government would hope that, if such a statement were made, the Government of Iran would clarify it because it would be a denial of the obligations of Iran under the U.N. Charter, and a denial of the rights and dignity of people.

Our representatives in the United Nations have repeatedly expressed Canada's views about continuing violations of human rights in Iran, very much including the systematic persecution of members of the Baha'i faith which has caused us much concern. Most recently, on November 26, Canada raised the issue of the persecution of the Baha'is in our statement to the U.N. General Assembly Third Committee, one of very few countries to do so.

Last year, Canada co-sponsored a resolution in the U.N. Commission on Human Rights whereby the Commission appointed a Special Representative to report on the situation in Iran and we will continue to urge the Government of Iran to co-operate fully with that official. We have also continued to express regularly Canada's concerns to the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in Ottawa. These efforts will continue.

UNITED NATIONS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION—CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENT OF HON. EUGENE WHELAN, P.C.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): The next delayed answer is to a question raised in the Senate on February 5, 1985, by the Honourable Keith Davey, regarding the United Nations with specific reference to the Food and Agriculture Organization and the cancellation of the appointment of the Honourable Eugene Whelan, P.C.