

Oral Questions

Return tabled.

*ESTABLISHMENT OF PUKAWKWA NATIONAL PARK

Question No. 3,183—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

1. What studies have been conducted by or for the government regarding any aspects of the proposal to establish a national park, temporarily called Pukawakwa National Park?
2. What are the main recommendations of each study concerning (a) the economic aspect (b) the social impact (c) the impact upon native persons of the establishment of such a park?
3. What (a) economic impact (b) social impact (c) impact upon native people is expected to ensue from the establishment of such a national park?
4. Is the surrender of treaty rights involved in the establishment of such a park and, if so, what is the current status of negotiations with the native people involved?

Return tabled.

*FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

Question No. 3,336—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

1. On what date did Canada first receive a request for aid from the Government of Ethiopia?
2. How much aid has been sent by the government to Ethiopia and on what dates did this occur?
3. What priorities will CIDA require in allotting more funds to the relief effort in Ethiopia?
4. Will additional aid be sent to Ethiopia and, if so, how much, in what form and on what date?
5. Does CIDA have available funds to allocate more aid to Ethiopia?
6. Is the present world crisis in food shortage affecting Canada's decisions regarding sending further aid to Ethiopia?
7. How serious a problem is the present worldwide food shortage with respect to CIDA's present and future commitments?

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ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSITION OF ARMED FORCES MEMBERS ATTACHED TO
NORAD FOLLOWING SPECIAL ALERT ORDERED BY
PRESIDENT NIXON ON OCTOBER 25

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: You can't beat class, can you, Mr. Speaker?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Now that we have the preliminaries over, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Would he advise the House whether or not members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are also members of the integrated NORAD command automatically went on

[Mr. Reynolds.]

the alert technically known as "Defcon III" when President Nixon ordered Defcon III on October 25?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have already advised the House closer to that date that the Canadian forces were not put on alert.

An hon. Member: What were they doing in the mountains?

Mr. Richardson: It was the American component of NORAD that was called to alert and not any part of the Canadian component of NORAD.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, that is a strange answer following the statement made by the Canadian general on the NORAD staff last night on the CBC television news. Can the minister explain to the House how a vitally important and integrated part of an operation such as NORAD can operate with half on alert and the other half not on alert?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether a question asked in those terms is in order. Perhaps the hon. member might rephrase the question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Semi-alert.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the minister how it is possible for an operation in which we are participating and on which the safety of this continent depends, to operate with half its personnel alerted and the other half not alerted?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the alert status of the Canadian forces cannot be changed without the authority of the Canadian government. We were at no time requested to change that status. We were advised that the United States intended to elevate the status of their alert, and that was all. We were advised that they were doing this, but we were not asked to change the status of our alert in any way.

Mr. Hees: If this is our idea of co-operation in NORAD under our continental commitment, I would ask the Prime Minister whether this is an example of the way the government is trying to run the affairs of this country?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence when we were advised as a nation that the continental air defence command of the United States had gone on alert? In view of the fact that this automatically involved Canadian troops, were we advised before or after the fact?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, it was 18 minutes past two o'clock on October 25 that the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the United States advised his counterpart in Canada, the Canadian chief of staff, General Dextraze, that he was moving the alert status of the United States forces to Defcon Position III—that is, Defence Condition