

Oral Questions

reforms, to find the way in which those reforms can be made more permanent.

With respect to the north, there are obviously some possibilities that there can be progress made in terms of negotiations, alliance to alliance, with respect to developments in the north. We are prepared to look at those. Mr. Shevardnadze and I began the discussion of that kind of option. The Prime Minister did with Mr. Gorbachev in meetings in Moscow last year. Mr. Shevardnadze will be here again in February. I intend to carry on those discussions with him to see if there are some proposals that the Soviets want to put to us. We will consider them bilaterally but we will only, as we have made clear, negotiate them on an alliance to alliance basis.

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister. The Secretary of State for External Affairs told the press last week that he will be undertaking a major foreign and defence policy review and that he will have a report to cabinet within about three weeks.

Will the minister make a commitment today to consult with Canadians through the parliamentary process during this review and allow Canadians to tell the government whether or not they approve continued cruise missile testing, or is the minister afraid that Canadians will tell his government that its foreign and defence policy is inconsistent, contradictory and hypocritical?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, two little matters of historic note; first, it was a Liberal government that brought in the cruise; second, for years and years and years the Liberal party refused to have any kind of public consultations on foreign policy. It was this government when we came to office that published a paper that was the basis of foreign policy discussions around the country.

Now, to be precise, what I indicated in comments last week was that because of the dramatic changes in eastern Europe I have instructed my officials, working with officials of other departments, to undertake a major review of our policy in Europe. I think that is urgent. I think that any prudent country taking a look at the dramatic changes that have occurred, particularly in eastern Europe in the last several weeks, would want to do that. That is what we are doing. I expect to be able to

take the review to some of my cabinet colleagues in the next three to four weeks.

Certainly, I think it would then be useful for me to come before the standing committee of the House of Commons and discuss the results of that review with my colleagues in Parliament. If there are some constructive proposals, as often there are, from those kinds of parliamentary consultations, I would certainly welcome that.

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ATLANTIC CANADA

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister for International Trade who is playing a key role in the Atlantic fishery.

A few minutes ago the Prime Minister said, "There is no crisis in Atlantic Canada." I want to ask the minister, if he does not agree with this statement what does he intend to do about it? Or, does he agree?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I just said—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Muzzle him.

Mr. Fulton: Watch that nose. It's going to grow.

Mr. Mulroney: Inasmuch as the House Leader seeks to distort what I have just said, it is incumbent upon me to deal with it.

I indicated that there is a crisis in the Atlantic fishery. It is deep seated and it is serious. It requires not catcalls and slogans, it requires mature co-operation between governments, both nationally and internationally. It requires an infusion of capital. It requires restructuring. It requires assistance from employment and immigration, from international trade, from external affairs and all of these measures are in train to deal with a genuine crisis in the Atlantic fishery.

What I indicated to my hon. friend is that he ought not to jump from a genuine crisis to besmirch other areas of activity in Atlantic Canada where there is growth and growing prosperity. As Premier McKenna said in New Brunswick, New Brunswick leads Canada in investment. There are jobs and prosperity in many important areas. Let's recognize that to make Atlantic Canada better and