

*Oral Questions*

considered the details and I have no problem with respect to moving on this according to that course of action.

Furthermore, I find it highly ironic that this member continues to get up on individual cases and says get tougher with some of the individuals who abuse the system and yet did not have the courage or the guts to support Bill—

**The Speaker:** I am sure no hon. member would want to have their courage questioned, especially in this House. Our courage is well known.

\* \* \*

• (1445)

[Translation]

**PEACEKEEPERS**

**Mr. Jean-Marc Jacob (Charlesbourg, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Following the Copenhagen summit for social development, the Croatian President agreed to the European and U.S. proposal to allow peacekeepers to stay beyond March 31, although their number will be reduced from some 15,000 to 5,000. Meanwhile, the situation in the former Yugoslavia continues to deteriorate seriously.

Given the Croatian President's agreement, does Canada intend to keep Canadian peacekeepers in the reduced contingent in Croatia after March 31?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question, which allows me to express the Canadian government's satisfaction with President Tudjman's decision.

Certainly, we have always felt that, in order to keep the peace in that part of the former Yugoslavia, it was important to maintain a UN contingent to act as an intermediary between the Croats and the Serbs.

A decision as to whether or not we will continue participating in this peacekeeping operation will be made in the next few weeks. As we have done historically, we intend to consult with the opposition parties before referring the issue to cabinet.

**Mr. Jean-Marc Jacob (Charlesbourg, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to Bosnia, can the Minister of Foreign Affairs let us know the government's position on Bosnia, where the ceasefire is increasingly being ignored by the belligerents, some of whom have deliberately fired at the UN special envoy's plane?

[English]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are very concerned by the evolution of the situation in Bosnia. Canada supports the Contact Group peace plan. We hope that the parties will accept this peace plan

because we believe it is the only one that could lead to a peaceful solution in the former Yugoslavia.

Obviously some parties still believe that through attack and war they could enhance their position on the ground. We think this is folly. We believe that the only solution is a peaceful one, by accepting the Contact Group proposal.

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**JUSTICE**

**Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, during this past week in Alberta three more women, one of whom happens to be a former student of mine, were sexually assaulted at knife point, physically beaten and totally traumatized. Two of their attackers were identified by the victims, yet the same brutal, violent perpetrators were released within hours of their arrest.

My question is for the Minister of Justice. When will the minister enact legislation necessary to prevent fully identified brutal rapists from being let back on to the streets?

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will not comment on the facts of the specific cases to which the hon. member has referred. I will assure him that the Criminal Code and its provisions in respect of bail, imprisonment, and parole entirely takes into account the need to protect society.

**Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, that is about as comforting as nothing. I have never in my life believed for a moment that a person could rape and hold a victim at knife point, be arrested at breakfast and be let out by lunch. What kind of justice is that?

When will the minister at least instruct his department to not allow bail for violent rapists?

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would allow fact and analysis to overcome emotion and politics, then perhaps he would focus on the responsibility for prosecution in the province of Alberta.

**Mr. Thompson:** Have a knife held at your throat and see what emotion you have.

**Mr. Rock:** It rests with the provincial Attorney General.

**Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Solicitor General announced the launch of a national flagging system to deal more effectively with high risk offenders. This announcement has been described as a significant move in the right direction.

• (1450)

Can the Solicitor General tell us who will use this system and how will it help protect our communities?