

Oral Questions

last August, have not been made public yet, contrary to the provisions of the agreement? Second, when does the minister intend to make this agreement public? Third, what interpretation must be given to the clause recognizing the right of peoples to self-determination?

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I apologize, the Secretary of State for External Affairs intends to table the final document of the agreement of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. I understand that arrangements have been made with Information Canada to make this text also available to the Canadian public.

As for the other part of the question concerning self-determination of the peoples, the concept of equal rights of peoples and the right of peoples to self-determination appears in the final act of this conference, even if it was approved in an European context, and is the same concept which appears in the charter of the United Nations. Consequently, the states which took part in the conference must abide by that principle and always act in accordance with the objective and principle incorporated in the charter of the United Nations as well as by the standards of international law, including those concerning the territorial integrity of the states.

[English]

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but I gladly turn it over to the parliamentary secretary. It concerns the meetings this week of Canadian and Commonwealth Caribbean officials on important trade and aid matters.

In light of our long established special relationship with this area, can the parliamentary secretary advise as to the progress of negotiations and particularly as to the splendid suggestion from the Caribbean representatives that Canadian visitors to their area be allowed to bring back larger quantities of duty-free rum?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for his question, and to express our pleasure that members of the delegation, all of whom have met with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, are with us this morning. I can assure my hon. colleague that the consultations with Canada are continuing in—

● (1140)

An hon. Member: A spirited manner.

Miss Bégin:—the usual warm and forthright manner, which is characteristic of the relationship between our countries, and that progress is being made. We are to have a round of other economic consultations in the near future. As to the alleged possible international agreement on rum, I do not have any more details.

[Mr. Joyal.]

TRANSPORT

FERRY SERVICE TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—ACTION TO
IMPROVE SCHEDULING DURING SUSPENSION OF SECOND
SERVICE

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to pose a brief question to the Minister of Transport. What action is his department taking to improve and further rationalize the scheduling of the one operating ferry service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland during this period when the second service is suspended and when there is a heavy movement of trucks, chiefly due to the transportation of farm products?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will look into that question and see whether I can provide an answer.

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COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—REACTION TO UNITED STATES RULING
BORDER STATIONS CAN STOP SENDING TELEVISION SIGNALS
TO CANADA

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Communications. What is the immediate reaction of the government to the ruling of the FCC that it is reasonable and feasible for border stations to stop sending television signals into the Canadian area.

Mr. Jim Fleming (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the department has only just received the FCC statement and hopes it can have a few days to investigate and make a response which has been requested by the FCC. I would point out that at the moment the American stations in question are licensed according to their American audience and the revenue available from that audience. Also those stations could not act, for instance, with another United States community close by such as Buffalo or Rochester in the way in which Buffalo now deals with Canada. Over the past 15 or 20 years Canadian stations have lost almost a quarter of a billion dollars in revenue to United States stations. That is the reason the CRTC is as concerned as it is.

Mr. Speaker: One further supplementary.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, is the government making representations to the FCC under conditions of international law about barring the transmission of programs from this particular source.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, it is true, as I said earlier, that the department will want to respond to the FCC. There is also the question, aside from the FCC, of international regulations concerning broadcasting and whether they will be contravened. As well as that the Canadian courts at two levels have upheld the powers of the CRTC to allow commercial deletions.