

in good shape and that the Quebec government, if it takes over the wharves, can accept that responsibility at the earliest possible date, and to avoid their becoming useless within the next few months?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of an agreement and I shall take up the matter with my colleague at the first opportunity.

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● (1450)

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SAMSON COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT—REPORTED CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT OF COMPUTING DEVICES

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence and has to do with the reported cancellation of the Computing Devices contract for the Samson communications project. Can the minister confirm whether or not that cancellation has taken place?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that Computing Devices were not able to complete their work under the contract. The contract is handled by the Department of Supply and Services and I do not know if in fact it has been cancelled.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the interest of the minister in obtaining Canadian input into this kind of defence project, and in view of the statement made yesterday by the president of the company to the effect that Computing Devices had offered to start delivering the terminals in May, 1976 and that Supply and Services had refused to accept that offer, before any action is taken by the government or before the government permits any action to be taken can I have an undertaking from the Minister of National Defence that he will intercede with his colleague the Minister of Supply and Services to see whether there is any way in which the contract can be restored? Because it is important, Mr. Speaker, not only to the people employed at Computing Devices, but also to the whole commitment of the Canadian electronics industry to supply our own Canadian forces.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, we have, of course, wanted to see the maximum amount of Canadian content in the Samson project. I think it is true to say that the government has been very long suffering with this particular contractor. We have been delayed many months but we have made every possible attempt to have the contract completed by them. However, at some point we are going to have to go to another contractor to supply the essential parts for the Samson project.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CAMBODIA—INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN PROTEST AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In regard to the previous questions put to the minister concerning the cruel tragedies and tortures that are taking place in Cambodia, documented in the *Toronto Star* of March 10 in an on-the-spot report by Jack Cahal, can the minister add to what he said before and tell the House in what way Canada is protesting this massive violation of human rights, and specifically whether Canada has yet launched a protest with the United Nations commission on human rights?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be aware, as I am, that it is very difficult to get information out of Cambodia at the present time. There is an almost total lack of information on the situation in Cambodia at the present time, but we are following up the question of violations with the UN commission on human rights.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with foreign ownership of land in Canada. Can the Prime Minister advise the House what progress is being made with the provinces with respect to the establishment of measures to deal with the ownership of land by foreigners in Canada? I realize the government has introduced an enabling amendment to the Canadian Citizenship Act which will assist in this regard, but I understand that there are other matters that require resolution, such as the application of the Foreign Investment Review Act, particularly as it applies to agricultural land. Can the Prime Minister bring the House up to date on negotiations in this regard with the provinces?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have to check whether there has been any new development since I last reported to the House on this. There was a study by the federal and provincial governments on this very subject and certain conclusions were reached which I believe were tabled in the House. I believe I tabled at the time the letter that I wrote to the various premiers getting their reaction to the report.

The amendment to the Citizenship Act is one of the recommendations that is within federal jurisdiction and on which we can act. There have been objections to the federal authority acting in that area under the Foreign Investment Review Agency. The position that I have taken is that this agency was set up by federal law and that it will continue to operate.

I will see whether there is some occasion on which to table further correspondence. I believe I have brought the House up to date on the matter as it stands. The provinces