

[Translation]

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns the document entitled "Directions for Canada's International Relations".

In this 47-page report, the chapter on human rights is very well hidden, and after much patient searching, we find a meagre paragraph which in French bears the unfortunate title of "Les droits de l'homme". If the Deputy Prime Minister read the report, he probably noticed that it contains only 17 lines—a quarter of a page—on human rights, and that those 17 lines are a collection of clichés. The Government gives no indication of the directions—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question?

**Mrs. Killens:** My question is as follows: What does the Government intend to do about human rights?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose that if one paid attention in the drafting of such a Green Paper to all of the interests of all of the Members of the House of Commons, the least amongst which is not human rights, it would generate a multi-volume Green Paper. The very fact that the subject was introduced in a Green Paper is an indication of the Government's concern with human rights as an element of our foreign policy.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Surely more than three paragraphs.

**Mr. Nielsen:** We take back seats to no one with respect to our work in human rights, as evidenced by the recent visit of the Secretary of State to Russia, and by the recent meeting that took place here in Ottawa and our ambassador's work in that committee.

**Mr. Axworthy:** There is a whole blank page you could deal with.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Killens:** Mr. Speaker, if the Deputy Prime Minister had read page 17, he would have noticed that three quarters of the page is blank. There is absolutely no text, and there was ample space to express the Government's position.

## Oral Questions

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### GREEN PAPER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, my second question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and it concerns international development. Here again, we find only generalities. The only thing that is clear from this chapter is that there will be more budget cutbacks. The Government has already cut \$180 million from the development aid budget. My question is as follows: Where is the voice of the Third World, the voice the Prime Minister promised would be heard in Bonn two weeks ago? What specific solutions does the Government intend to provide, and if no clear answer is given today, how can people give their views on a document as vague as this one?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have a very quick and positive response to the Hon. Member's question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** That is that she, and others with similar interests, should participate as parliamentarians in the work of the special committee that has been set up to make inquiries into those matters.

### TIMING OF DECISION ON UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Deputy Prime Minister. I sat up late last night reading this document.

**An Hon. Member:** Where you stimulated?

**Mr. Deans:** Can the Deputy Prime Minister explain to the House what purpose a committee will serve, unless the Government is prepared to commit itself not to take a decision on star wars until the committee has completed its deliberations and reported back to the House of Commons? With that in mind, will the Deputy Prime Minister undertake on behalf of the Government not to have a decision taken on star wars until the committee that will be set up to investigate whether or not Canadians are in favour or opposed to such a commitment has had a chance to study it and report to the House of Commons?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Here, Sir, is a Member who is asking questions with respect to the Green Paper, who has already made a decision—

**Mr. Fulton:** Cut the B.S.

**Mr. de Jong:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Nielsen:**—that he and no member of his Party is going to participate in a special committee set up for a parliamen-