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DOCUMENT\_ID: 133857073  
INQNO: DOC4D 00212110  
DOCNO: TEL 008887 86  
PRODUCER: OTTAWA  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19861101  
TOR: 144034  
DOCPREC: P  
ORIGDATE: 198610312031  
MHFNO: 86 2703953  
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER  
PP RUEAIIB  
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
STU0308  
PP RUEHC  
DE RUEHOT #8887/01 3042033  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 312031Z OCT 86  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2096  
INFO RUEBBPA/USDOE WASHDC  
RUEHGA/AMCONSUL CALGARY 1268  
RUEHHA/AMCONSUL HALIFAX 9100  
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 9700  
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 0658  
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO 5861  
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 1467  
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3121  
ZEN/AMCONSUL VANCOUVER POUCH  
BT

CONTROLS  
UNCLAS OTTAWA 08887

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ENRG, AU, CA  
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 31 COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD

1. OVERVIEW

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ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** COMPLICITY IN SERIOUS WAR CRIMES, AND CANADA'S EXPORT OF NATURAL GAS TO THE U.S. WERE THE TOPICS OF IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON INTEREST DURING QUESTION PERIOD OCTOBER 31. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED LIBERAL PARTY MP SHEILA FINESTONE (QUEBEC), EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK (ALBERTA), NDP ENERGY CRITIC IAN WADDELL (BRITISH COLUMBIA), PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY (QUEBEC) AND LIBERAL PARTY MP MAURICE FOSTER (ONTARIO). AN UNOFFICIAL EDITED EMBASSY TRANSCRIPT OF THE RELEVANT EXCHANGES FOLLOWS.

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2. ALLEGED WALDHEIM COMPLICITY IN WAR CRIMES  
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FINESTONE: SUBSTANTIAL ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE CONCERNING AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** COMPLICITY IN SERIOUS WAR CRIMES IN YUGOSLAVIA. COULD THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TELL US WHAT SPECIAL STEPS HE HAS TAKEN ON MY PREVIOUS REQUEST THAT A THOROUGH, IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL BE CONVENED TO INVESTIGATE THESE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS?

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CLARK: WE HAVE, AS HAS BEEN REQUESTED, CHECKED THE AVAILABLE FILES THAT EXIST IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO SEE IF THERE IS ACTION THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR CANADA TO TAKE OR FOR OTHERS TO INITIATE. I NATURALLY HAVE NOTICED THE MOST RECENT ALLEGATIONS. ALL I CAN REPORT AT THIS STAGE IS THAT WE HAVE THEM UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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FINESTONE: I WONDER IF THE MINISTER HAS ACTED ON MY REQUEST THAT THE UN WITHHOLD MR. WALDHEIM'S RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE OF 81,650 DOLLARS UNTIL AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL INVESTIGATION IS HELD? THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE REQUIRES THAT THE MINISTER INSTRUCT OUR UN AMBASSADOR TO AT LEAST MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

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CLARK: WE ARE CONSIDERING ALL THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT REQUEST. I CANNOT JUST YET RESPOND DEFINITELY TO THE MEMBER. AS SOON AS I AM AWARE OF ALL THE IMPLICATIONS, I WILL REPORT TO HER AND TO THE HOUSE.

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3. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS TO THE U.S.  
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WADDELL: DOES THE PRIME MINISTER THINK IT IS FAIR THAT CANADIANS SHOULD PAY MORE FOR CANADIAN NATURAL GAS THAN AMERICANS LIVING NEXT DOOR TO THEM?

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MULRONEY: THE PRINCIPLE IS THAT CANADIAN GAS WILL NOT BE SOLD IN EXPORT MARKETS FOR LESS THAN COMPARABLE PRICES IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET. IT CAN, I BELIEVE, BE UPHELD WITH THE FLEXIBILITY APPROPRIATE TO A LESS REGULATED MARKET.

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WADDELL: THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY HANDBOOK SAID: WE WILL ADOPT MARKET SENSITIVE PRICING FOR EXPORTED NATURAL GAS WHILE ENSURING THAT CANADIANS ALSO PAY LESS THAN THEIR AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. GIVEN THAT IT IS PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT PEOPLE IN LOS ANGELES ARE PERHAPS GOING TO PAY CHEAPER PRICES FOR CANADIAN GAS THAN CANADIANS LIVING IN TORONTO, WHY DID THE PRIME MINISTER BREAK ANOTHER CAMPAIGN PROMISE?

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MULRONEY: THERE HAS BEEN NO DEVIATION. WE THINK THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE IS ONE OF FAIRNESS FOR THE CONSUMERS AND HOPE FOR WESTERN CANADA.  
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FOSTER: CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF THE "BORDER PRICE" TEST, CAN THE PRIME MINISTER GUARANTEE THAT THE GAS TO BE SOLD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FOUR BILLION DOLLAR NATURAL GAS DEAL OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS WITH 19 UTILITIES IN NORTHEASTERN U.S. WILL NOT BE SOLD AT A PRICE CHEAPER THAN THAT FOR GAS PROVIDED CUSTOMERS IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC?  
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MULRONEY: THE MINISTER (OF ENERGY) HAS RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEB (NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD) TO ADVISE HIM OF THE IMPACT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CANADIAN NATURAL GAS MARKET AND TO RECOMMEND ACTION WHICH MAY BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCEDURES ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE LESS REGULATED ENVIRONMENT. THAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS BASED ON FAIRNESS, AND WE HOPE TO FOLLOW THROUGH.

NILES

END OF MESSAGE

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