

4. Does the government consider that defence spending is an effective way of maintaining economic stability, particularly in designated areas of Canada?

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of National Defence and Regional Economic Expansion as follows: 1. Many factors are taken into consideration in determining base consolidation policy. Some of these are changes in military commitments and international agreements, changes in weapons, availability of resources, reduction in force levels, as well as condition of real property and economy of base operation.

2. When it has been decided that a base should be vacated, a public announcement is made approximately one year in advance of the closure. Operational units are moved to new locations when facilities are available, and military and civilian staffs prepare the base for disposal. If the property is to be declared surplus to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation, the Corporation is alerted to the basic plan. If the base is not disposed of by the closure date, the facilities are placed on a "caretaker status" and a rear party is charged with its security and care after that date. As base activities run down, military personnel excess to requirements are posted to vacancies at other bases and civilian personnel are offered vacancies, if available, elsewhere in the Public Service; and Canada Manpower Centres and the Department of Manpower and Immigration provide assistance for those who do not remain in the public service.

3. Local municipal and provincial officials are advised of the decision before the public announcement is made.

4. Yes, provided the primary purposes of the spending are not jeopardized. Defence spending, like other forms of expenditure can, in principle, be used to help maintain economic stability.

UNITED NATIONS VOTING

Question No. 234—Mr. Robinson:

1. Is there a deadline for submissions to the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding alternative voting schemes and, if so, what is it?

2. Does the government have any information as to the length of time required for research to determine how alternative voting schemes would affect the results of votes in the General Assembly?

3. Will the federal government advise if research will be carried out to determine the influence Canada would have under an alternative voting scheme and, if so (a) who will carry out the research (b) when will it be commenced?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. During the 25th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, a resolution was passed which requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to communicate to him, before July 1, 1971, their views and suggestions on the review of the Charter of the United Nations. There was no request for submission of specific proposals concerning Charter review.

2. Because of the great number of factors which could be taken into account in any alternate voting scheme, and the diversity of the United Nations membership, an indefinite length of time would be required for research to

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determine how such schemes would affect the results of votes in the General Assembly.

3. Alternate voting schemes have been examined by some scholars and institutions interested in suggesting changes in UN voting methods. At present the Government has no plans for additional research in this area.

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

Question No. 235—Mr. Robinson:

Has the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution calling on member nations to submit proposals for revision of the United Nations Charter and, if so, will the federal government consider the advisability of making representations to the effect that voting not be based on the one-nation one-vote idea, but rather on the basis of (a) population (b) national wealth (c) standard of living (d) literacy, or some other criteria or combination of these factors?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): On December 11, 1970 the United Nations, with Canada casting an assenting vote, passed Resolution 2697 entitled "Need to consider suggestions regarding review of the Charter of the UN." This resolution requested Member States to communicate suggestions on the review of the UN Charter. The Government plans to submit a reply to the Secretary-General, but has not yet decided whether or not comments on an alternative voting scheme will be part of that reply.

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

Question No. 236—Mr. Robinson:

Will the federal government consider the advisability of sponsoring a resolution proposing the revision of the United Nations Charter so that the U.N. response to aggression will be automatic and not the subject of delay through prolonged debate?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The government is not considering sponsoring such a resolution. The UN Special Committee on Defining Aggression has had its mandate extended for a fifth time but an agreement among member states on a definition of aggression does not appear to be forthcoming in the foreseeable future. Until such a definition can be agreed upon it is doubtful if any revision of the UN Charter in this area would be acceptable to the majority of members.

LIBRARY CENTRES

Question No. 247—Mr. Robinson:

1. How many Library Centres has Canada throughout the world for cultural exchange and how many additional Library Centres are contemplated?

2. How many Library Centres do other nations have in Canada and where is each located?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. Canada has two library centres abroad, one in Mexico City and one in Paris. All Canadian Embassies and High Commissions have libraries of Canadian books, which in most cases are available to the public for consultation. The Embassy in Washington and the High Commission in London maintain large libraries from which