

I hope that if the time for the discussion of estimates runs out, the minister will arrange with the government house leader for a day or two days to be set aside for the discussion of one of the most serious problems in the world, that is, the subject of external affairs linked with the problems of defence. We should like to bring to the attention of the minister the problems of defence in Canada, because the prestige of Canada abroad, enhanced as it has been by the minister's visit, may have been diminished by the Minister of National Defence in this country.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join in welcoming the minister back. I am sure it is very useful for the minister, and indeed for Canada, for him to have the opportunity to speak to the foreign ministers of the U.S.S.R., Poland and Italy in their own countries. I am also glad that the minister was received by His Holiness the Pope, whose deep and practical concern for peace has impressed many people throughout the world, including many not within his own church.

I am glad to learn that we have agreed with the Soviet Union to enter into early negotiations for the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on cultural, scientific and technical exchanges. We think this is useful, and welcome it. I am also very happy, because of the concern I have had in this respect, to notice that there is progress being made in connection with the reunification of families.

When making a brief statement of this sort, it is necessary to concentrate on essentials. There are one or two things I wish to take up with the minister in the hope that during the discussion of his estimates we may hear a little more about them. The minister said that he found in his trip a wide recognition of the need for further strengthening the United Nations. I ask the minister to tell this house as soon as possible what the government of Canada proposes to do, and what are the views of the U.S.S.R. and the other countries he visited, with regard to a major question affecting the strengthening of the United Nations. I refer to ending the isolation of the People's Republic of China, which question has already been referred to in debate in the house. It has been widely reported by the press that Canada is taking some initiative in this matter and is suggesting what is called a two-China policy. We have heard that this initiative has not met with widespread approval. I say to the minister, without enlarging on the subject, that we in this party have

serious doubts about that policy. It may well be that the nationalist regime in Taiwan should be recognized as being the government of that country; but I would have thought that to attempt any solution which recognized a two-China policy would be to fly in the face of the facts and the views of both regimes in question.

I wish to say a word or two about the minister's reference to discussions on Viet Nam. I ask the minister very directly if it is not the view of the people to whom he spoke, the government of the U.S.S.R., the government of Poland and perhaps the government of Italy as well, that an unconditional cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam is a necessary preliminary to successful negotiations. The minister, in his statement, referred to certain unrealistic views. Are not these unrealistic views the views expressed by U Thant, the Secretary General of the United Nations? Are not these unrealistic views the views expressed by the governments of the countries which the minister visited and the governments with whom he spoke?

There was a news report in the *Globe and Mail* of November 16 to the effect that Canada may ask the United States to halt the Hanoi bombing. I should like to ask the minister whether this is proposed. Indeed, I would urge him to do it, but not in the terms used in this report—I nearly used an uncomplimentary adjective, but that would be unseemly at this time—which refers to the unrealistic proposals that have been made from time to time. I ask the minister if it is not realistic to say that until the bombing of North Viet Nam ceases there is unlikely to be any fruitful negotiation whatsoever. I urge the minister to put the full weight of Canada unequivocally behind that view.

Lastly, Mr. Minister, as so often happens when we Canadians are discussing our visits elsewhere, the minister says—and I have no doubt it is true—that he had ample evidence of the high regard in which our country and people are held. I believe that is true, but I say that I do not think this high regard will be maintained unless we speak more clearly on some of the basic issues of the day, such as those I have mentioned.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Brewin: They are, our position vis-à-vis the People's Republic of China; our position vis-à-vis what is necessary to end the war in Viet Nam; our view as to necessary changes