

Report of Minister on Scandinavia

foreign and defence policy is. Certainly if he told the Scandinavian ministers something in this regard, he said something that has never been said in this house.

We in this party are glad that the minister has visited the Scandinavian countries. In our view the smaller countries of Europe represent an enlightened and constructive outlook on world affairs based largely on support of the United Nations. We think Canada should co-operate as closely as possible with them in strengthening international organizations.

We would have liked to hear something more definite in the minister's statement on the progress of the negotiations in respect of the diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic of China. We know there are differences of opinion in this house, but as far as this party is concerned we welcome vigorous action on the part of the government to assist in bringing nearly a quarter of the human race within the community of nations.

On the question of east-west relations and European security, we in this party strongly support the proposed conference and urge upon the minister that some risk must be taken. What he has said about success being assured before a conference is held seems to be carrying this rather far. We think that even at the risk of having an unsuccessful conference, without an immediate and positive result, a conference should be held as a means to ending the massive military confrontation in Europe which is costing so much money and which is a risk in that vital part of the world.

In his statement the Secretary of State for External Affairs has told us he compared notes with his Nordic colleagues on the situation in the Middle East, Nigeria and Viet Nam. We would very much have liked to hear what the basis for this exchange of notes was. We believe that both Canada and the Scandinavian countries have an important role to play in providing the peace keeping forces that may well be needed to bring about a lasting peace in the war torn areas. We would have liked to hear what Canada's policy is, because in each one of these areas it becomes apparent there is a need for the contribution of Canada and the Scandinavian countries to the international forces.

[*Translation*]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to express our thanks to the minister for his note informing us that he

[*Mr. Brewin.*]

had not had time to get the text of his statement translated in time for today's sitting.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the national day of French Canadians, it is most significant to note that when some statement is to be made it does not seem so important to wait until the French text is ready.

At any rate, we support the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and the spokesman for the New Democratic party. We feel that these meetings the minister attended have merely served the cause of understanding between good neighbours, but do not seem to have led to anything very concrete. In fact, we must admit that the results are rather vague and have little new to offer.

If we must take such a roundabout way simply to arrive at the recognition of Communist China, I think that is taking too many precautions to establish clearly Canada's policy.

● (2:40 p.m.)

NATIONAL DEFENCE**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER RESPECTING MATERIAL AND HUMAN REQUIREMENTS TO FILL DEFENCE NEEDS**

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall that when I reported on June 2 regarding the NATO ministerial meeting, I undertook to report progress as decisions are reached on changes necessary to give substance to the government policy on defence as announced by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on April 3.

This report I make today will not be a lengthy one, Mr. Speaker, for a number of reasons. There are many variables which must be taken into account before final decisions can be made. For example, our role and force structure in NATO are still being discussed with our allies. We will honour our obligation to be governed by the established NATO consultative procedures, and hence our plans must remain tentative for the time being. For similar reasons we do not wish to anticipate changes which might be made in air defence roles and organization. In this regard, we are looking forward to receiving and studying the report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. These are but two examples, Mr. Speaker, and when account is taken of all the