[Translation]

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF RESOLUTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Secretary of State for his constructive answer. I must also say that we respect the Prime Minister's decision to support any action that the United Nations Security Council might take, but I do not believe that is enough.

Will Canada take the initiative of asking first Mikhail Gorbachev to take a stronger position against the Chinese Government, and with the support of the Soviet Union, take the initiative of confronting China openly at the United Nations? That is, will Canada take the initiative of presenting a resolution condemning the action of the Chinese Government and trying to convince other countries at the United Nations General Assembly to support this initiative and this resolution?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows very well, the Canadian Government has played an active role with other countries in taking concrete measures that can have an impact on the Chinese Government's decisions. I am interested in the suggestion by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition that we might encourage the Soviet Union. We are certainly thinking of having discussions with all countries that might be encouraged to take common action.

I believe that the Leader of the Opposition is not looking for empty gestures, or actions that can have no impact, and neither am I! But, in the United Nations or through bilateral talks with other countries, we hope to find ways to put pressure on the Government of China.

• (1420)

[English]

GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON WORLD TRADE SANCTION PROGRAM

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think the Secretary of State is perfectly correct. At this stage we have been talking about the pressure of world opinion and moral suasion. That was certainly the purpose of the unanimous resolution adopted by the House of Commons. That would be the

Oral Questions

purpose of a resolution introduced by Canada at the United Nations.

Given the Chinese Government's refusal so far to listen to any reason on this issue, there may be one additional area that Canada would like to explore with other nations around the world that might have a little more clout with the Chinese authorities. What are the views of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Government on consultations with other countries about the possibility of moving toward a concerted world trade sanction program against China?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would think that it may be premature on June 14 to start detailed discussions about anything of that kind.

We are, as the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, involved in consultations with a number of other countries regarding the most effective means that might be open to us. I told the House last week, I believe, that the Government of Canada was prepared to re-examine the range of our programs with China. Indeed, given the importance of this matter, we are convening a national round table of Canadians expert in Canada's relations with China and in the situation in China to be sure that the actions we take will have the most enduring and constructive long-term effect.

There are some actions that it might be appropriate to bring to the attention of the House that, in their way, can have some real impact. One of those is the decision of Radio Canada International, which I want to commend, which has moved up by ten months its capacity to broadcast into China. Broadcasting will begin on June 20 and will provide a counter to the very extensive and blanketing program of propaganda being issued in China by Chinese authorities.

HOUSING

COST OF DOWN PAYMENT ON FIRST HOME

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Housing. In a nation-wide Decima survey conducted last September for CMHC, 58 per cent of the people polled said that the amount of money required for a down payment on a house was too high to handle. As well, 53 per cent of