

in Paris, and from the French representatives here, and we get a good deal of information on Indo-China's events from the United Kingdom which has a diplomatic representative in Indo-China. We are pretty well informed of the facts of the situation.

Mr. Low: I am sorry to interrupt, Mr. Pearson, but we find down at this end of the room when you speak directly to the questioner that we cannot hear. I was just wondering if it would be possible to subject Mr. Pearson to the physical inconvenience of leaning forward?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Am I supposed to speak through this? (Indicating microphone.)

The CHAIRMAN: No, that works by itself. You do not have to worry about that.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I will try and remember that, Mr. Low.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Coldwell, do you wish to ask a question on the same subject?

Mr. COLDWELL: No.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I have not answered the second part of Mr. Fleming's question about Sir Winston Churchill's speech. We were in touch over the week-end with the United Kingdom government in respect of the statement that Sir Winston Churchill made in the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr. FLEMING: There is one question I did not finish on the first part. Does this latest information about actual participation of Chinese armed forces in the fighting in Indo-China affect the position that the Canadian government's delegation intends to take at the Geneva Conference?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I find it difficult to answer that question, certainly categorically. Any open and powerful intervention by Chinese forces in Indo-China does, of course, introduce a new element into that situation and any new element of course effects our policy, but I would point out that the Indo-Chinese war and the Indo-Chinese situation has never been brought to the United Nations and in that respect it is different from the Korean situation. In so far as our obligations to the United Nations are concerned they have not been engaged in this situation. Certainly a very important change would take place if open intervention by the Chinese communists or by anybody else resulted in the matter being brought formally to the attention of the United Nations that has not yet happened.

Mr. FLEMING: I assume we can go back to that subject later after Mr. Pearson has looked into the subject and obtained the information and the date on which it was obtained.

One further question, and that is all, Mr. Chairman. What is the position of the Canadian government in relation to the policy outlined by Mr. Churchill yesterday when he said, as I understood it, in effect, there should not be any attempt made to curtail the scientific preparations of the United States and investigations with respect to the development of the hydrogen bomb. I think he expressed the hope that the United States would be ahead of Russian scientific development in that respect.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Our position on that matter was indicated in the House; that we did not think—and I gather in this respect we are in agreement with Sir Winston Churchill—we did not think it would be wise for us to make formal representations to the United States to the effect that they should suspend any further—if I may call them that—"experimental explosions" of the hydrogen bomb. At that time I stated, and I feel the same today, that if you can take any comfort out of this development at all it is out of the fact that knowledge is not exclusively in the hands of the other side. Having said that we are as anxious as other governments will be—and we have