Friday, October 16, 1964

The house met at 11 a.m.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

ADDRESS OF LOYALTY AND AFFECTION FOLLOWING VISIT

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the spirit that animated the discussion initiated in the house on Wednesday afternoon by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) I move, seconded by Mr. Diefenbaker, that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen in the following words:

To

Her Most Excellent Majesty Elizabeth the Second

By the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

Most Gracious Sovereign:

The Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, wish humbly to convey to Your Majesty this expression of our deepest loyalty, affection and respect, and of our heartfelt appreciation of your recent visit to Canada.

The presence in our country of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Prince Philip on the occasion of the centennial of the meetings of the Fathers of Confederation held at Charlottetown and Quebec city warmed and moved the hearts of all true Canadians. Your messages will be an inspiration and guide to the Canadian people as we work together to achieve the national progress of which you spoke so movingly.

We pray that you may continue to reign for many years as our gracious and beloved sovereign.

Motion agreed to.

Whereupon the members of the house rose and sang

God save the Queen

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by Mr. Diefenbaker:

That the said address be engrossed, and that a message be sent to the Senate informing Their Honours that the House of Commons had passed the said address and requesting Their Honours to unite with this house in the address by inserting therein the words "and Senate".

Motion agreed to.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMUNIST CHINA—REPORTED EXPLOSION OF NUCLEAR DEVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him whether he has received a report to the effect that the government of mainland China has just exploded a nuclear bomb; whether he has any official report to make to the house, and whether this event, if it has taken place, will have any effect on Canada's policy regarding the feasibility of bringing China as quickly as possible into the community of nations in order that some measure of control with respect to nuclear weapons possessed by China as well as by other countries may be implemented.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The hon. gentleman who represents Digby-Annapolis-Kings sent me a note a few minutes ago indicating his intention to ask this same question. There is a Reuters report to the effect that the government of mainland China has detonated a bomb. I have no official confirmation of this report.

It will be recalled, however, that about a week ago it was indicated both in the United States and here in Canada that there was a possibility that within a very short period the Chinese government would detonate such a nuclear bomb. At that time I took occasion to draw attention to the provisions of article IV of the partial test ban treaty signed in August a year ago in Moscow by three of the great powers and later adhered to by 102 nations.

If a bomb has been detonated in China it will add to the radioactivity of the atmosphere, with all its consequences. I would hope—the government of Canada would hope —that no country already adhering to the test ban treaty would use this event as an occasion to withdraw its support of the test ban provisions.

In response to the final part of the hon. gentleman's question I can only say that I