

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****ALLEGED INABILITY OF PARIS EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO SPEAK ENGLISH**

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of a specific complaint I have received to the effect that officials of the Canadian Embassy in Paris are unable to communicate with English-speaking Canadians. Would the minister undertake to investigate this matter and report to the House?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will do so, but I was in Paris recently and conversed in English with members of the embassy staff.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the House that there are English-speaking Canadians on duty at all times to serve Canadians in Paris so that they do not have to be sent to Rome to have their needs looked after, as was the case in the complaint I received?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the details from the hon. member. I always investigate such complaints, and I would be happy to do so in this case if he can supply me with the details.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FEMALE EMPLOYEES**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the well-being of women. In view of the finding by a member of the Liberal party's task force on the Status of Women Report that the federal government and Crown corporations are the worst offenders in the area of inequality for working women, would he look into these charges with a view to eliminating discrimination if and where it exists?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad and happy to note the hon. member's recommendation.

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, will the minister undertake to make a statement on this matter to the House before it adjourns for the summer recess?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that would be premature.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION DECISION RESPECTING TRANSMISSION OF UNITED STATES MESSAGES TO HANOI BY CANADIAN MEMBER**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of

[Mr. Speaker.]

State for External Affairs. Was the decision for Canada to carry messages to Hanoi from the United States made by a majority of the members of the International Control Commission?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the commission was not consulted about this any more than the other members of the commission would consult us about their endeavours to promote understanding between the contending parties. This was a responsibility the Canadian government took which was exercised through our member, and it was so recognized in North Viet Nam which welcomed the use of Canada as a channel of communications.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the simple form of my first question would remove the necessity to ask a supplementary, but did Poland and India know Canada was bearing messages to Hanoi?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure. Perhaps I could get an answer to this question but, as I said yesterday, it is part of the functions of the ICC, and we certainly did not object that Poland was carrying similar messages. We did not protest that. We felt that was quite in accordance with their functions.

TRANSMISSION OF UNITED STATES MESSAGES TO HANOI IN 1964 BY CANADIAN OFFICIAL—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE—TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, is the Acting Prime Minister now prepared to have this matter referred to the appropriate committee of the House as has been requested a number of times?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I endeavoured in my statement today to give a full account of what went on. If there are any suggestions that I was deficient in anything I explained I would be very happy to supplement the information if I can do so. I really do not think that it will be necessary to have any such inquiry, and certainly I would not think that one would want to interrupt the work that is going on in the committee for this purpose. But if in the future there appears to be some lack of clarity or lack of candour on the part of the government, I would be prepared to consider the suggestion.

Mr. Stanfield: As a supplementary question, is the Acting Prime Minister prepared to put the House in a position to judge these matters by tabling copies of what was communicated by Mr. Seaborn to Hanoi?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that I was completely candid in what I revealed in my statement, and it is quite clear from the discussion here that I was very candid because the activities at that time have been subject to some criticism.