

Inquiries of the Ministry

secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister advise us whether Canada has been asked by the federal military government of Nigeria to extend the terms of the observer team there. If so, what has been Canada's response?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, some time ago I indicated that the Canadian government would be very happy to extend the terms of the observers. It is my understanding that they have in fact been extended more or less indefinitely, and we are happy about the situation.

Mr. Fairweather: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, has the minister made representations to Nigeria, having in mind the recommendation made by the committee on external affairs that the observer team look at both sides, both the secessionist and the federal military government side?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, our ambassador in Lagos was of course furnished with a copy of this report which I am sure he has passed along to the government as representing the views of the committee, as well as the statement I made on this subject in the house. However, the observer team is to observe the conduct of the federal military government troops, and there are none in Biafra.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, has the minister followed up two specific recommendations in the house committee report, one as to the expansion of the observer team in federal territory, and the second the provision of independent transport facilities for the team?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have made these views known to the federal military government. However, the position at the moment is that the observers are not fully occupied, and the question that had arisen in connection with their activities was whether in fact there was a useful role for them to perform under present circumstances. We urged the government to continue the observer team in existence. We indicated our preparedness to help in any way we could, and the position now is that the observer team is going to be retained. However, so far apparently there has not been a great deal of need for supplementary members or supplementary equipment.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Not supplementary.

[Mr. Fairweather.]

DRUGS**HEROIN—REPORTED STATEMENT AS TO DISTRIBUTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. On November 21, as recorded at page 3011 of *Hansard*, I addressed the following question to the minister:

In view of the alarming statement by an R.C.M.P. spokesman that the hippy world has become an important distribution centre for heroin, a dangerous and rapidly habit forming drug, would the minister inform the house if this matter is now being given his consideration?

At that time the minister said he had this under investigation. Has he a statement to make now?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his usual courtesy in giving me notice that he was going to put this question to me again. We have just received a report in our department from the R.C.M.P. on the use of drugs by young people, and officials of the Department of Justice are currently meeting with officials of the Solicitor General's department and the Department of National Health and Welfare. When we have analysed the facts we will be pleased to give a statement to the house.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. A few days ago I asked the minister a question with reference to the incentives provided by the federal government for research and development in the civil sector of our economy as opposed to incentives in the military sector, at which time the minister said it would take too long to answer and offered to discuss this point at any time and place. Would he be prepared some time during the next week or ten days, either at the University of Ottawa or Carleton University—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Broadbent: —to discuss it in public?

Mr. Speaker: Order.