

Inquiries of the Ministry

veto, and therefore although President Johnson is determined that import quotas shall not be imposed congress can override him, would the government consider making representations to the United States that we will not lower tariffs on goods against which import quotas may be imposed?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I doubt very much whether that would be effective action, but what I do think is that we should be prepared to withhold concessions on imports into Canada of value to the United States if they do in fact withdraw concessions of value to us.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In the light of the evaluation made on October 13 by the United Nations conference on trade and development, UNTAD, that the Kennedy round "will contribute to a further decline in the relative share of the developing countries in world trade," what steps is the government taking to make sure that consideration is given to the position of the developing countries?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the Kennedy round concessions are available to all countries of the world, the developing as well as the developed countries. The developing countries want to get additional concessions by way of special preferences, and that matter is under discussion in UNTAD.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**INQUIRY AS TO BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Did Canada and France last week conclude a bilateral agreement of co-operation in the establishment of programs for defence production, research and development?

Hon. Leo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this question be directed to the proper minister, who is the Minister of Defence Production.

Mr. Lambert: Then I will direct it to the Minister of Industry in his capacity as Minister of Defence Production. Did Canada and France last week conclude a bilateral agreement of co-operation in the establishment of programs for defence production, research and development?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lambert: As a supplementary question, did this agreement or accord arise within the framework of Canada's relationship with France under NATO, or is it a purely bilateral agreement arising out of, shall I say, our direct relations with France?

Mr. Drury: Unquestionably the fact that France is a member of NATO had some bearing on the negotiations leading to the agreement. It is in fact an agreement moving toward increased co-operation between Canada and France in the matter of research and development in the defence equipment field. It is bilateral rather than part of the general NATO agreement.

Mr. Lambert: As a further supplementary question, would the minister be prepared to table a copy of this agreement at the earliest possible opportunity?

Mr. Drury: I regret, Mr. Speaker, this cannot be done, as it is in the field of defence equipment. As the hon. member will understand, a number of provisions are classified; consequently it will not be made public.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that France now has militarily withdrawn from NATO, and in view of the fact that there are reports that country has entered into a joint training scheme with the Soviet union, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence what position Canada now is in in relation to the other NATO partners as a result of this treaty we have entered into with France.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, as I have said this particular agreement is not part of the NATO agreement; it is a separate bilateral agreement. We have separate bilateral agreements with other countries along similar lines. This does not necessarily have a direct relationship to the level or scale of French participation in NATO.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the minister understood the import of my question. I will rephrase it in a little different way. In view of the fact that France now is looked upon as somewhat of a security risk—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Harkness: That is the general purport of the reports which have appeared in the newspapers.