

Inquiries of the Ministry

ask for it to be published in French, however desirable that may be, would be an invasion and an infringement of the Copyright Act. Any question in connection with producing a French edition would have to be directed to the publishers.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question.

(Translation):

Mr. Cook: May I put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister? Does the Prime Minister intend to submit a request in that regard to the holders of the copyright on Beauchesne's?

(Text):

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not think a request would be very effective. It is today a rather costly matter to produce a volume of any of these books. Naturally it is requisite that the publishers make a profit; a certain number have to be sold. I presume that is the reason an edition in French has not been produced. However, I will bring the hon. gentleman's question and suggestion to the attention of the company.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre had previously indicated that he wished to ask a supplementary question. Therefore I will recognize him, and then the hon. member for Laurier.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my supplementary question. In view of the fact that Beauchesne's fourth edition, though a private publication, is furnished to all members of parliament by an officer of the house, is there not substance to the request of my hon. friends opposite that the house or the government should consider having it translated into French?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is a matter of straight argument. I feel it is hardly in keeping. We have heard various representations on this subject, and I do not think the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre should advance his question in that form; he is just advancing a straight argument.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is not an argumentative one; it is a straight question. I ask the Prime Minister whether the government will give consideration to underwriting the cost of this work and advising the publishers to that effect.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the government has no authority to underwrite any expenditure. Parliament could do so, but not the government. I am sure the hon. gentle-

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

man would rephrase his question if he now had the opportunity to do so. I think it is most desirable and necessary that the rules should be made available in the French language.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thank the hon. gentleman and the hon. member for Lapointe for having brought to the attention of the house this matter which was so long neglected by the other side.

UNITED NATIONS

NUCLEAR TESTING—CANADIAN POSITION
RESPECTING MEXICAN RESOLUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is Canada supporting the Mexican resolution at the United Nations for a ban on nuclear tests to come into effect on January 1, 1963?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question of nuclear weapons tests is now being discussed in the first committee at the United Nations but as yet there has been no actual resolution filed. However, the representative of Mexico, in a speech to the plenary assembly, outlined a resolution which he suggested could be considered by the other members of the United Nations.

Mexico, as the hon. member knows, is one of the eight non-aligned countries which have been sitting in on the disarmament committee meetings in Geneva. And by the way, these eight countries, in my opinion, have done a splendid job. They are now conferring in New York on the terms of a resolution which I expect will be placed before the first committee.

Canada, of course, has been very active in this whole picture and is a member of the disarmament committee. We are fairly well aware of negotiations which are going on, but at the moment it would be premature for me to say what stand Canada would be taking because there is no actual resolution yet.

There have been several questions asked about what has been happening in New York with regard to this very serious question of nuclear weapons tests, and if members so wish I would be glad to provide a copy of my speech in the plenary assembly on September 25 and a copy of the speech made by General Burns, our disarmament advisor, in the first committee a few days ago. From these speeches hon. members will know exactly the position Canada has been taking and is taking in New York on this question.