

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****VIET NAM—REQUEST BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL FOR CEASE FIRE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister regarding the appeal by Secretary General U Thant for a unilateral cease fire by the United States, under which there would be a truce under which United States forces in Viet Nam would fire only if fired upon. In view of the fact that the Secretary General has indicated that he himself or a group of governments, who are members of the United Nations, might make an appeal to the United States for such a declaration by a fixed date, will the Canadian government indicate to the Secretary General of the United Nations Canada's support of such a declaration?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet seen the official text of the appeal of the Secretary General addressed to the government of the United States, but I expect to receive it later this afternoon. In general terms, however, so there can be no misunderstanding, the position of the Canadian government remains as set out in this house on a number of occasions. We should like to see the bombings stopped; we should like to see the infiltration stopped, and we should like to see this conflict transferred from the battlefield to the negotiating table as soon as possible. Any proposal or appeal which carries us closer to that objective will be supported by the Canadian government.

I should like to remind my hon. friend, and I am sure he will recall this, that in answer to a question from his seatmate I said that the government publicly endorsed the three point proposal put forward by the Secretary-General on March 14. That proposal seemed at that time, as it still does, to offer some hope for early restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question. Is the Canadian government prepared to support an appeal by the United Nations to the government of the United States to set a fixed date for a cease fire to be carried out on a unilateral basis?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I can say unequivocally that the Canadian government will support an appeal to all sides for a [Mr. Speaker.]

cease fire. That was the tenor of the first proposal made by the Secretary General on March 14.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs accept the proposition of the Secretary General of the United Nations that the first initiative in stopping the conflict should rest, for the major part, with the United States?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I think I have dealt with this question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is argumentative.

NATO—REPORTED INVOLVEMENT OF OFFICERS IN SPY ACTIVITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of Canada's deep involvement in NATO does the minister have anything to report to this house in respect of the alarming reports regarding spy activities within the NATO organization?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, a communiqué was issued by the Secretary General of NATO on March 23 in which it was stated that NATO has been informed that the news carried by the press in respect of the alleged involvement of 300 NATO officers in the ring discovered in Italy lacked any foundation. As a result of conversations I had with the Secretary General in England on Friday I would say there is no reason for changing that reply.

HOUSING**INQUIRY AS TO FORMATION OF NEW DEPARTMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, in view of the continuing decline in housing starts as reported last Friday by C.M.H.C., and in view of the speech of the right hon. Prime Minister last week concerning urban and housing affairs and techniques of handling related problems, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government is considering a new agency or perhaps a department of housing and urban affairs.

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's statement