

been in touch with the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the appropriate authorities in Canada in relation to Mr. Habib's visit to the Philippines and as to what his terms of reference are.

Senator Roblin: It may well be that in the course of normal diplomatic interchange the Government of Canada was informed of the intention of the United States with respect to their special emissary, but I think that that is a matter domestic to their own politics.

Senator Graham: Could the Leader of the Government tell us whether there is any direct government-to-government aid from Canada to the Philippines and, if so, whether the Government of Canada is considering the suspension of that aid? In addition, could he indicate whether there is non-government aid and, if so, whether the Government of Canada is considering maintaining or even enhancing non-government aid to the Philippines?

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, I am not aware of Canadian aid to the Philippines, but the existence of such aid is entirely possible. I will make inquiries to see whether that is the case. I think that we would be reluctant to interfere in the affairs of non-government organizations.

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, I have one final supplementary question. It is some days since the election in the Philippines and we have heard pronouncements from many leaders in the world since that time. In view of the widespread interest of Canadians, particularly those in the Philippine community and all those who share concern for the democratic process and for free and fair elections, I wonder when we might expect some kind of formal statement from the Government of Canada with respect to the Philippines situation.

Senator Roblin: I share my honourable friend's concern about the legitimacy of the election in the Philippines. He has travelled there, he has seen what happened and he has brought back a very negative report on what he saw. That, of course, is an important factor which we will take into account. We want to do whatever we can to encourage the proper conduct of elections anywhere in the world, but we recognize the limitations both of our power and of what may be properly expected of a country in our position. However, my honourable friend has raised a good point and I will do my best to give him an answer.

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, I just wonder whether the Leader of the Government could give us some indication of when we could anticipate a formal statement from the Government of Canada with respect to the situation in the Philippines.

Senator Roblin: My friend has simply repeated his previous question, so the same answer applies.

● (1410)

FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT

FAMINE RELIEF—REPORTED BREACH OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I wish to ask the Leader of the Government some questions with respect to the francophone summit which is currently taking place in France.

A number of newspaper reports claim that the agreement reached between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec was breached by the intervention made yesterday by Premier Bourassa when he called for a substantial plan to relieve food shortages in Third World countries. I wonder whether it is the view of the government that the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Quebec with respect to conduct at international meetings such as this has been breached in any way.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, my answer is that it is the feeling of the government that no breach has occurred. There has been a conference in Paris within the last little while at which the ministers responded to questions by the press in respect of this incident, and the quotations that have been furnished me with regard to the statements made there include the following:

There is absolutely no problem between Canada and Quebec. There has been total consultation. The spirit of the entente is respected.

I think that deals with my honourable friend's question.

Senator MacEachen: I did not catch who made that comment.

Senator Roblin: The press conference was presided over by the Minister of State for External Affairs and the Secretary of State.

Senator MacEachen: Mr. Clark?

Senator Roblin: No, Mr. Benoît Bouchard.

Senator MacEachen: I will follow that up by asking the Leader of the Government whether he will consider the words of the agreement between Quebec and Canada which, in one paragraph, reads as follows:

On questions regarding the world political situation the Premier of Quebec will be present as an interested observer. On questions regarding the world economic situation the Premier of Quebec will be able, following consultation and with the agreement of the Prime Minister of Canada, on a case-by-case basis to intervene on matters of concern to Quebec.

I presume that the intervention made by Premier Bourassa was under the heading "Questions Relating to the World Economic Situation". I therefore ask the Leader of the Government whether Premier Bourassa's proposal for a substantial plan to relieve food shortages in Third World countries was issued as a