

Inquiries of the Ministry

have doubts in that respect. However, if the minister is ready to answer, I have no serious objections to it.

[English]

Mr. Basford: As I understand it, that was the plan announced by the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission. If there is any change, since this is an independent commission, any announcement would have to come from the commission.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS—
TEST BAN TREATY**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): I should like to address my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Having in mind the recent massive underground nuclear tests conducted by the Soviet Union and the United States, the latter being of particular concern to many British Columbians, can the minister undertake to make an early report on what Canada is doing to expedite the signing of a test ban treaty?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, Canada has been very active in its discussions to try to bring about a comprehensive test ban and is of course on record to that effect in the general assembly and the Geneva committee on disarmament. The main problem is how to identify violations of an underground test ban. We will be sponsoring a motion at the current General Assembly calling for all member states to submit lists of their seismological monitoring facilities, together with assurances that they will promptly supply data to help verify whether or not a seismic event is an earthquake or an underground nuclear test.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the minister whether the question of nuclear testing has been one of the subjects discussed by the Government of Canada with representatives of the government of Peking at Stockholm, and whether any mention was made in those discussions of the high-level nuclear testing that has taken place in recent weeks in China?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the general purpose of our negotiations at Stockholm is to get into a position where we can have these kinds of discussions with a government that represents so many millions of people.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION****ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FRENCH NETWORK
PERSONNEL**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): I should like to put a question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

In view of his recent statements concerning the CBC in which he seemed to speak of a factual situation, can he tell us what specific steps he intends to take to throw light on this matter and substantiate his accusations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As far as the truth of the matter is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I was relying in part, on what the leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste (Mr. Caouette) said repeatedly during the last session, and also on what has been said by members of all parties in the house.

With regard to specific steps, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take any at the present time; I have confidence in the management of the CBC. I feel that, for the time being, I should rely on them, trusting that they will live up to their responsibilities. If they are not successful, the question becomes hypothetical, and the government will have to consider some other action.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister made serious charges against the CBC and that the latter is answerable to parliament, can he say whether he intends to bring this question before the house or one of the committees?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the committee already exists and if its members express the wish to look into this matter, I will be very happy to hear their request. But members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste sit on that committee and as I said, the most violent charges brought against the CBC came from them. I feel therefore that they must know their diagnosis better than I do.

[English]

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in view of the Right Hon. Prime Minister's suggestion that the government might deal with separatist propaganda broadcast by the CBC, I am wondering if the Prime Minister has any similar plans to deal with the overwhelmingly heavy percentage of propaganda broadcast by