

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I expect that during my intervention in the General Assembly debate I will be referring to this and other questions that affect human rights. This is one of the principal concerns of the Canadian government, and I know I will be speaking for everyone in the House in raising these questions at that time.

[Translation]

TRANSPORTATION OF ASIAN REFUGEES FROM  
UGANDA—NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS TO BE ADMITTED

**Mr. Georges-C. Lachance (Lafontaine):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question in order to know whether steps have been taken concerning the transport of those Asiatic refugees to Canada, as there is apparently a transport problem. Could the minister or the minister responsible for immigration tell us how many persons up to now have been accepted as immigrants to Canada?

[English]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, there is an advance party from the Department of Immigration in Uganda setting up headquarters and having local support staff. This advance party is mainly from Beirut and is being supplemented from Europe. It is very difficult to estimate the precise number of people that will be coming until our operation begins early next week.

\* \* \*

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES—PLANS TO PROTECT  
CONSUMERS

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I want to return to a previous question. In view of the fact that rising food prices represent the most serious consumer problem facing thousands of Canadians, has the minister any plans in hand for protecting the consumers of this country, particularly those in the low income group?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Based on the evidence we have at the present time, much of the increase in food prices is due to shortages, crop failures, bad weather—

**An hon. Member:** And lousy government.

**Mr. Andras:** —as well as shortages of imported foods and many other things of that nature. While it may distress members of the opposition to face these facts and base a response upon them, I simply say that is the evidence we have now, and I do not think price and wage controls, as my colleague the Minister of Finance indicated, would be the answer.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

• (1130)

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to follow up my earlier question concerning whether or not the minister had contacted the important food distributors in this country to see if they would take concerted action to keep the lid on rising food prices. Has he now got this under consideration, realizing the psychology involved and the important pattern that might be set here by the major food distributors?

**Mr. Andras:** I do not think I can add anything to my previous comment.

ACTION TO MEET PROBLEM OF FOOD COSTS IN YUKON  
AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister. What action is his department taking to meet the specific and serious problem of food costs in the Yukon and Northwest Territories where costs are approximately 25 per cent to 35 per cent higher than the national average?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** As I indicated to the hon. member before the recess earlier this year, this matter is under investigation. I will be glad to report to him when I have the full results of our probing into that situation.

\* \* \*

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UGANDA—INQUIRY AS TO REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST  
EXPULSION OF ASIANS

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and welcome him back from his eastern approach. Can the minister advise whether the Canadian government has communicated directly with the government and authorities in Uganda in reference to the racist repression in that country which surely has no place in what is properly called a colour-blind commonwealth?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the House will remember, the Prime Minister of Canada issued a statement at the time. He said that Canada should accept some of the refugees, the Asians who are being expelled from Uganda. In his statement he criticized the government of Uganda and hoped at that time, as I had expressed earlier, that they would change their policy. That is still our hope, but we cannot of course rely upon that and therefore I am sure I have the support of the hon. gentleman in welcoming some Ugandans to Canada.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I assure the minister he has our support in that. Has the government communicated directly with the government of Uganda on the matter apart from press releases and projected speeches at the United Nations?