

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—ROLE OF CANADIAN RED CROSS IN RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister inform the House whether the Canadian Red Cross has undertaken a role in connection with the release of captured military and foreign civilian personnel in Viet Nam?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can confirm the reports that have been made. At the request of the Canadian government the Canadian Red Cross is sending a team of ten members, led by the national commissioner, General Wrinch, which left for Viet Nam this morning. This comes about as a result of the wish of the parties to the Viet Nam agreement that the Canadian Red Cross should play such a role, which I am sure will be welcomed by everyone in the House.

NORTH VIET NAM—CONSIDERATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH DECISION ON RECOGNITION

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing the back row again. My question is also addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and arises out of his statement on motions relating to the recognition by Canada of the Democratic Republic of North Viet Nam. Can the minister assure the House that in reaching its decision the government took fully into account the many obstacles placed in the way of the activities of the International Control Commission in Viet Nam, and specifically the Canadian delegation on that and other commissions, in their search for missing Canadian civilians during the past 19 years, and particularly during the past ten years?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and as a result of our recognition we hope to do better.

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CANADA LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD

REQUEST THAT WESTERN MEMBER BE APPOINTED

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour and is one that I asked him a few weeks ago about the Canada Labour Relations Board. Has the government appointed a western Canadian member to the board and, if not, when does the minister expect to appoint one?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the hon. member that there is latitude for further appointments at a later time. We did endeavour to seek out an appointee from western Canada for the position, but unfortunately at that particular time he could not accept. Of the members of the board, one was born in Manitoba, another was educated in that province, and

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another spent considerable time in British Columbia and was educated at the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Reynolds: Was there only one person in western Canada to whom the government felt it could offer the job?

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ESKASONI RESERVE—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH FLOOD DAMAGE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Indian Affairs. Is the minister aware of the flooding that took place over the weekend at the Eskasoni Indian reserve, resulting in the evacuation of ten families from their homes plus serious damage and loss of personal belongings? Would the minister investigate and ascertain what assistance, financial or otherwise, can be provided to assist these families?

Mr. Len Marchand (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware, and I do not think the minister is aware, of this regrettable situation but I will get the facts and will be happy to report to the hon. member as soon as I can.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Bellechasse.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It might be simpler if I gave the floor to—

[English]

I recognize the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Bellechasse.

ESKASONI RESERVE—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the right hon. member for Mount Royal went around this country tippy-toeing and pontificating about everyone never having it so good—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask his supplementary.

Mr. Muir: In view of the fact that there continues to be a rate of 80 per cent unemployment on this particular reserve, can we not get something better and have some action taken, instead of being told that notice will be taken of these serious problems?

Mr. Len Marchand (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the government has taken several measures as the hon. member would see if he would read the annual reports of