

Before concluding, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might refer to the note which was delivered to our Ambassador in Washington on April 14 and the reply which he delivered yesterday on behalf of the Canada Government. When the question was raised two days ago, I made clear that we had already requested U.S. consent to dispense with the usual diplomatic practice of declining to publish exchanges of notes, but that I should, nonetheless, raise the question again. Our Ambassador has since stressed to the State Department the importance of publishing the exchange so as to lay at rest, once and for all, the misinformation appearing in some American newspapers to the effect that the United States note contained threats. I have already assured the House that the note contained no such threats and that the summary of the note published by the State Department accurately summarized its substance.

We have today received the response of Secretary of State Rogers to my proposal that the text of the diplomatic note of April 14 be published. His response is as follows:

"The Secretary of State regrets that he cannot agree to the proposal of the Canadian Government that we depart from the usual diplomatic practice of not publishing exchanges of notes between governments in the case of our note of April 14, 1970, relating to the introduction by the Canadian Government of legislation on pollution in the Arctic, fisheries and the limits of the territorial sea. Because of the public interest in the matters discussed in the note, the United States did include the substance of its note in its press statement of April 15, 1970."

S/C