

Inquiries of the Ministry
NATIONAL DISASTERS

**SICILIAN EARTHQUAKES—ASSISTANCE
 BY CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he advise the house whether Canada has made any contribution to assist the survivors of the Sicilian earthquakes and, if so, what is the nature and extent of that assistance?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my friend the hon. member for Spadina gave me notice of his intention to ask the same question. In reply to the question now put I would simply say that we are keeping in touch with the Canadian Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies as to a possible Canadian contribution for the relief of the earthquake victims in that section of Italy. However, at the moment it appears that Italian resources are adequate to meet all the requirements. The matter is being looked into further.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**VIET NAM—EXTENSION OF ACTIVITIES
 OF CONTROL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs which is related to his own field of responsibility, where I am sure he will be much happier to remain.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fulton: The question is, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us the present position with regard to the work of the International Control Commission in Viet Nam and, specifically, can he say whether the suggestion that it be assigned increased responsibility for the policing of the borders of Cambodia and Laos so as to prevent infiltration from those countries has been accepted or is likely to be accepted?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, the suggestion has not been accepted and at the moment the prospects do not seem good for its acceptance, although the Canadian government has indicated its willingness to comply with the request of Prince Sihanouk.

Mr. Fulton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Canadian government had [Mr. Greene.]

any direct consultation with the governments of Poland and/or India in an attempt to have our views prevail with respect to the work of the commission?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): We have been in contact with these governments, Mr. Speaker.

VIET NAM—EFFORTS BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO EFFECT CESSATION OF BOMBING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is related to the one just asked. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs inform the house what steps the Canadian government has taken or is planning to take to persuade the government of the United States to treat the recent Hanoi statements in a positive way and to cease immediately the bombing of North Viet Nam in the hope that it may at last become possible to end that disastrous war by negotiation?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there was a reported statement of the foreign minister of North Viet Nam on January 6 that if the bombing stopped North Viet Nam would be prepared to enter into discussions. There are some questions about this declaration that the Canadian government would like to have answered. I instructed our representative on the commission to proceed to Hanoi where he now is. I am now awaiting a report.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the present administration of the United States has refused to cease the bombing, and also in view of the fact that the war threatens to spread into Laos and Cambodia, has the Canadian government considered joining with other governments to bring this matter, either through the United Nations or otherwise, to the attention of the American government so that the bombing may stop and an opportunity may be taken for an end to that war?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There are limitations on the jurisdiction of the United Nations, as my hon. friend knows, but the Canadian government has not opposed discussion of this matter in the general assembly and would welcome an opportunity for the discussion of this whole question within the terms of the Geneva conference.

Mr. Lewis: Why don't we take the initiative?