EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

April 4, 1966

This, Mr. Chairman, concludes my statement in chief on the NATO situation. I can go on with my statement or I can permit an examination on what I have stated so far by members of the committee, as you wish.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the wish of the committee to pose questions now on the NATO aspect of the Minister's statement?

Mr. HARKNESS: I think so. I think it would be better to deal with each of these topics as they come up.

Mr. BREWIN: I personally feel differently from Mr. Harkness, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that we should hear the full statement on the various subjects and have time to consider the statement that is made. Then, after the advantage of thought and study, our questions can perhaps be more to the point than if we proceed immediately.

I only suggest that course, Mr. Chairman. If members of the committee wish to proceed now, that is fine; but that is my personal view.

Mr. McINTOSH: May I suggest that if we follow Mr. Brewin's suggested course we may not finish with all three today and we may lose continuity in the questions we are going to ask in regard to each topic. We may only finish dealing with NATO in the time allotted to us.

Mr. MACDONALD (Rosedale): I think there is merit in Mr. Brewin's point of view. I think it is fairly obvious that we are not going to dispose of even these three subjects to which the Minister has referred this morning. I think it would be of advantage to have the Minister's statement on the record to be examined when the committee reconvenes. Therefore, my recommendation will be that the Minister deal with each subject.

Mr. MATHESON: In view of the grave importance of some of the things the Minister has referred to, I personally would like additional time to prepare questions. I think this is most important. We can proceed to other topics presently available.

Mr. DEACHMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister has a prepared text on the Southeast Asia question, I think to have that on the record in one volume, together with his remarks on NATO, would be very valuable indeed to the committee because a number of us like to distribute copies to people who have been writing to us about it.

I would agree with what Mr. Brewin, Mr. Macdonald and others have said.

Mr. CHURCHILL: When do we meet again, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MARTIN: I could meet tomorrow morning.

The CHAIRMAN: We could continue tomorrow morning.

Mr. NESBITT: In that case you would not have the copies of today's meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: There might be a problem about meeting tomorrow. The clerk tells me that there is a possibility the committee rooms may not be available tomorrow because there are five other committees meeting. However, we will try to find a room for tomorrow.