

received on Saturday protesting the prosecution and jailing of Ukrainian poets and intellectuals in the Soviet union.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the importance of the question now being put by the hon. member for Ontario. However, I have very serious doubt whether it is the type of question which should be placed at this time. Although it is a matter of very great importance, it is a general question and I really do not think it should be asked on the orders of the day.

CAMBODIA—SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has seen the statement of the Secretary of State of the United States, as follows:

We have been very much interested in the suggestion that has been made, I think more than once, by Prince Sihanouk that the international control commission should strengthen its personnel and its capabilities in order to assure the neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

I also should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has given any thought to, or has contemplated any action in respect of, the move to Cambodia for this purpose of many of the presently underemployed staff of the international control commission who now are situated in Viet Nam.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend will recall, I dealt with this question in the external affairs committee. There has been a suggestion made by Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia but no progress has been made as to whether the other members of the commission would be prepared to accept the suggestion for an expanded role for the commission. The statement of the Secretary of State was noted by me, and we have been discussing the matter with those concerned.

Mr. Harkness: I have a supplementary question. Has the minister discussed with the other members of the joint commission, India and Poland, the possibility of moving a large proportion of that staff to Cambodia where they could possibly perform a very useful function?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I do not agree with my hon. friend's premise, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

The question as to what the commission might do in Cambodia would only arise if the request for its use in the particular circumstances was in accord with the Geneva agreement.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. When Dean Rusk talked about strengthening the presence of the international control commission during his press interview on May 27, was he suggesting strengthening the presence of the commission by the introduction of troops?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I do not believe so.

OLD AGE SECURITY

CONSIDERATION OF INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF PENSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Brown (Brantford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the government continuing to give consideration to increasing aid to recipients of the old age pension?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question might be placed on the order paper.

USE OF FUND SURPLUS TO INCREASE PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. It is one of concern to a great many Canadians. Pending action on a permanent basis, will the government consider taking the necessary steps in order to use the surplus in the old age security fund to increase old age security pensions by the amount that surplus would make possible?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question is of a very general nature and concerns general policy. Therefore it cannot be asked at this time.

Mr. Knowles: Dix heures.

TELEVISION

COMMUNITY ANTENNA SYSTEMS—INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question