

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 1961.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we now have a quorum. We also have the minister with us.

Mr. LENNARD: We have had a quorum for some time.

The CHAIRMAN: The minister has indicated that the questions may range all over his statement in the house, and his statement to us on Friday of last week.

Mr. STINSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: while I have not yet had an opportunity to look at the transcript, I understand that the impression is left by something I said yesterday to the effect that I thought that some of the work being done by officers of the department was unimportant. I did not mean to say any such thing. What I thought I said was that the work of the department in the field of disarmament was, I thought, more important than some of the other things that were being done in the department. I would just like—I am trying now to say what I intended to say yesterday.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I think in fairness to Mr. Stinson, I should say this.

(*Off the record*)

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed. Are there any questions?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Might I ask Mr. Green some questions about Africa. I do not know if they arise out of his statement in the house, but if he decides it, we can deal with them.

In his speech the other day, on the 26th, the minister said that some of the French speaking countries were putting out feelers with regard to the establishment of diplomatic missions in Ottawa. On page 4024 of *Hansard* for April April 26, 1961 he is quoted as saying:

We are very interested in establishing one or two missions in certain of these French-speaking countries in Africa.

I wonder if I might ask which countries have approached Canada in that regard?

Hon. HOWARD C. GREEN (*Secretary of State for External Affairs*): There have been informal approaches, for example, from Senegal and from Malagasy.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Is it the intention of the government to establish embassies or missions, for instance in the Ivory Coast and in Senegal?

Mr. GREEN: We had Mr. Pierre Dupuy, our ambassador to France, visit all these French-speaking countries in November and December last year, following which he submitted a very helpful report. I am hoping we can get authority to open at least one embassy. I am not sure in which country that would be. Possibly it would be the Ivory Coast. But if we were able to open one, we would then accredit that ambassador to several other neighbouring countries. This is a problem largely of expense.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes. I was wondering if Senegal was one of those countries for which Mr. Williams, our high commissioner in Ghana attended the celebrations there recently, at Dakar. Do I understand that is not one of the countries?

Mr. ROBERTSON: He was there as a special ambassador for the celebration of their independence. He was not accredited to them.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): There is no intention to establish one in Senegal?