

and relates to the recent announcement of the sale of \$8 million worth of Saskatchewan potash. In view of the announcement coming so soon after the Prime Minister's visit to the purchaser, in this instance the People's Republic of China, and in view of the evident good relations between Canada and that country, will the minister indicate what measures are being taken to enlarge present trade in that particular product with China?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think I should refer this question to the Prime Minister as he was the man who negotiated with the Chinese.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: The House may recall that the Prime Minister announced that a permanent consultative mechanism would be set up with officials from both sides, Canada and China, to consider long-range supply questions. One of the particular items that Canada put on the agenda was long-term supply arrangements in respect of potash. I welcome, as I know all members of the House must welcome, this first sale which is an indication of this profitable arrangement.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta and will recognize the hon. member for Hillsborough immediately following.

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PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—SITUATION OF INMATES AFTER QUELLING OF RIOT

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In view of his statement in the House that he has transferred over 100 inmates from the B.C. penitentiary, can he now tell us whether that prison is back to normal, or are the prisoners still locked up in their cells on a 24-hour basis?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the most recent report I have is that the penitentiary is partly back to normal but not completely. In other words, they are trying to restore the penitentiary to normal operation on a gradual basis.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. The Chair had hoped to recognize the hon. member for Hillsborough and the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway before calling orders of the day. I will recognize the hon. member on a supplementary, then the hon. member for Hillsborough and then the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether the inmates have been given the opportunity to go back on a normal basis, or is the prison supervisory staff deciding which areas should be opened up?

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I know that instructions were given from Ottawa to the penitentiary officers in British Columbia to make an effort to return, as soon as possible, to general conditions all those who had nothing to do with the disruption. I know that the first steps were taken in respect of those instructions, and I saw that order which was issued from Ottawa.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—INQUIRY AS TO GENERAL BURNS SERVING ON UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs in reference to the UN Mideast peacekeeping force. Will he advise whether there has been any request for the services of the highly qualified and uniquely experienced General E.L.M. Burns in an advisory or other capacity, and has he ascertained whether this distinguished public and military servant might be made available to the UN at this crucial time?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of the question, to my knowledge we have not received such a request. This is an interesting suggestion and I will certainly see that it is brought to the attention of the Secretary General who may find it quite useful.

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN WORLD POPULATION YEAR

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last May I asked whether he would make a statement on Canada's preparations for World Population Year, 1974, under the United Nations, at which time he said he did not know when he could make a statement but thought it would be closer to 1974. Now that we are a lot closer to 1974, I ask whether the minister can make a statement, perhaps next week or very shortly, on Canada's preparations for World Population Year.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to do that. We are now closer to 1974, and closer to the statement that I hope I will be able to make in the next two or three weeks.