

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

to be served if Greece were forced out of the alliance, thus breaking the contacts that are so important—and we have found this to be the case in all our contacts internationally—in that we are able to have a direct channel of communication with the government of the country whose policies we are trying to influence. I can see nothing more stupid in this world than breaking diplomatic relations for the purpose of trying—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Who suggested that?

**Mr. Sharp:** Perhaps I might continue, Mr. Speaker. I can see nothing more stupid than to break diplomatic relations with governments you are trying to influence, and thus I do not see any very good purpose to be served in asking Greece to leave the alliance. I think it is better to have Greece within the alliance where we can bring our collective pressures to bear on that country.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I want it to be clear that I did not suggest a breach of diplomatic relations. This question has not been raised. Is it the minister's view and the view of the government of Canada that Greece or any other country should remain a partner with us in the NATO defence alliance regardless of any breach of human rights? In other words, is it the position of the government of Canada that the question of human rights is of no concern in respect of the NATO alliance, and is it the position of the government that the people of Canada should be asked to remain associated indefinitely in a defence alliance with a government that has been found, in a judicious and impartial way, to have violated human rights?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, as I recall the NATO treaty, it does contain, as it should, references to the defence of democratic freedoms. The question is how we can best accomplish this purpose. We should ask ourselves whether it would be better to have Greece with the alliance where we can bring our collective pressures to bear in supporting the principle of democratic freedoms or whether we should tell Greece to get out and no longer be concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A number of hon. members wish to ask supplementaries on this very important matter but hon. members will realize that perhaps in due course we should move to another subject. I see that the Leader of the Opposition seeks the floor for a supplementary.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether this attitude is not somewhat in common, although in a very different area, to the attitude of appeasement toward other governments adopted prior to the last world war?

**Mr. Sharp:** I do not think so at all. I think it is important for the alliance that we should all be permitted, including the government of Greece, to support democratic freedoms. If we can keep Greece in the alliance, which has as one of its purposes the support of democratic freedom, then we will be doing a greater service to the people of Greece by keeping Greece in the alliance rather than expelling it.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Council of Europe apparently did not consider it would be cutting off communications with Greece by expelling it, may I ask the minister whether he does not consider that NATO would be strengthened in the eyes of the world by making it perfectly clear that nations which do not support democratic freedoms and democratic institutions have no place in NATO?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Chair will allow the minister to reply to the hon. member's question, but I suggest we are clearly entering the field of debate. In my view we are having a debate on this question and are getting away from the question period. However, if hon. members agree the minister will be heard in reply to the hon. member's question and then the Chair will recognize a member on another question.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the statement made by the leader of the New Democratic Party. I believe that the NATO alliance, with which he or his party are apparently not very much in agreement, serves a very great purpose in the world and I see no reason to believe the expulsion of Greece would strengthen that alliance. I do not think that by expelling Greece we would either strengthen the alliance or in any way help to restore democratic freedom in Greece.

**TAXATION**

## WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—PUBLICATION OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the