Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker. We ought to know the government's position. Are we to assume from the statements made that the minister was announcing a decision? If not, when may we expect an announcement of government policy on this matter?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. gentleman that the foreign policy of Canada will not be that which has been recommended by the Voice of Women.

Mr. Bell: The minister is very brave.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the tenor of the representations, did the delegation from the Voice of Women perchance include the Postmaster General?

Mr. Baldwin: He is an honorary member.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.-ALLEGED DEGRADING REGULATIONS IN AKAITCHO HALL

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On Tuesday last I asked him about regulations I described as degrading which had been issued or promulgated in respect of Akaitcho Hall, Yellowknife. The minister said he would look into the matter. Has he had an opportunity to do so?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have received telegrams from most of the students of that institution, but I have not received a complete report in this connection. I would beg the house to allow me to put the matter off until tomorrow when I shall be in a position to make a report.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister reports to the house on this matter will he be good enough to include the results of an investigation into the way the telegram he says he received and which I received—I imagine the telegram he received is a copy of the one I received-

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I assure hon. members that I had a reason for putting my political parties to represent Canada? [Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, question the way I did. If that telegram is the one that has been signed by more than 100 students who live in the hall, will the minister be good enough to investigate the way in which it was sent?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether or not the hon. member has received a telegram, but I know I have. These regulations were adopted by the students themselves and I shall inquire to find out whether they were forced upon them by the officials of the institution or whether the students had a chance to exercise their democratic rights in this matter.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the educational policies and programs pursued by those who live in these northern hostels, will the minister or his department consider investigating the conditions in all hostels in the north? That may be necessary.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the hon, member that the incident which he mentioned has been spurred by a comment allegedly made on a television program by someone who apparently has never set foot in the institution involved. I do not like to have doubts raised as to the merit of the institutions of the Canadian North, as I am sure they are generally well administered.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we have reached the realm of debate. Perhaps we might go on to another subject.

[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

COMPOSITION OF CANADIAN DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Postmaster General, in his capacity as minister responsible for telecommunications.

Since 84 countries will be represented at the satellite conference due to open on February 24 in Washington, has the federal government appointed representatives of all