

grave concern of the Canadian people about the escalating violation of human rights by President Idi Amin in Uganda?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1450)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The government of Canada does support the call of the Anglican Primate for an independent inquiry into these tragic deaths. The government of Canada has already made known to the representative of Uganda in Canada that in our view, an independent inquiry is justified in the present circumstances. Therefore, we have no hesitation in supporting strongly and sincerely this particular request.

CANADIAN EFFORTS AT UNITED NATIONS TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Expressing the dismay of members on this side that the motion of the hon. member for St. John's East on this particular point yesterday was denied, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister a supplementary question? In view of the escalating violations of human rights in many parts of the world—Russia, Czechoslovakia, Chile, Indonesia, to name just a few countries as well as Uganda—can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House what instructions have been given the Canadian representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission to help the United Nations increase its worldwide efforts to protect human rights?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, so that there will be no misunderstanding on this point, I should refer to the incident which occurred yesterday. We did not refuse to accept the hon. member's motion on substantive grounds but on procedural grounds—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: —because the action called for in the motion had already been taken by the government of Canada. Therefore, there would be no reason to oppose it on substantive grounds. With regard to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, I am pleased to advise the hon. member that the government has already acted. Prior to his question, we instructed our representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Beaulne, to take an active hand in bringing this particular incident in Uganda to the attention of the United Nations.

SUGGESTION THAT MOTION CALLING FOR INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP OF UGANDA BE PUT AGAIN

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for that explanation of the unusual action in the House yesterday. Following on that reply, will the minister agree at three o'clock by unanimous consent to having that motion put, and this is a very important question, in order that the House of Commons may have an opportunity to

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support the government in its expression of its concern, and indeed its indignation, at what is happening in Uganda.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to accept any further Standing Order 43 motions, whatever the subject, until the procedural question is clarified because just the other day we all agreed to an extremely good motion put forward by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. Suddenly a debate took place which interrupted the normal proceedings of the House. Until that situation is clarified, I do not intend to agree even to this particular motion which we support 100 per cent.

INQUIRY WHETHER PRESIDENT AMIN WILL ATTEND MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH LEADERS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, can the Acting Prime Minister say whether this despotic, erratic and cruel leader of a commonwealth country will be part of the commonwealth leaders meeting in June?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not the person responsible for sending out the invitations.

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, on the basis that we on this side of the House will agree not to debate the motion referred to by my colleague, the member for St. John's East, will the government House leader have the motion moved at three o'clock on the order for motions?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will realize that these questions generally lie in the class of representation and when they carry an additional condition, they become hypothetical representations.

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COMMUNICATIONS

REFUSAL OF QUEBEC MINISTER TO ATTEND CONFERENCE— POSSIBILITY LEGISLATION INTRODUCED PRIOR TO CONFERENCE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. In view of the refusal of the minister of communications of Quebec to attend the Minister of Communications meeting later this month or early next month, and in view of the fact that this minister is one of the hosts or co-chairmen of the conference, has any decision been made for that conference to proceed?

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauv  (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact I communicated immediately with my provincial counterpart in Alberta. Of course I would have been pleased to see the Quebec minister take part in this meeting of communications ministers. I think he would have