Inquiries of the Ministry SPORTS

1976 SUMMER OLYMPICS-IMPLEMENTATION OF WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS TO ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF TEAMS

Mr. Warren Allmand (Noire-Dame-de-Grâce): I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that Canada has been awarded the Olympic games for 1976, will the minister state whether his department is taking action to implement the proposals in the white paper on amateur sports so that our Canadian teams will be properly prepared?

Mr. Speaker: It seems that the hon. member is asking such a general question that it can hardly be accepted at this time. He is inviting the minister to make a statement which should be made on motions.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

RAE-INDIAN DEATHS ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY SEWAGE PLANT WATER

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Before directing my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I wish to welcome him back to the House after his trip abroad. Prior to his departure I asked him whether he had received a communication from Mr. Roy Daniels, President of the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, alleging that polluted water had caused the death of several adults and children in the community of Rae. The minister replied at that time that he had no knowledge of the matter but would be glad to check into it. Has the minister had a chance to check into this serious situation? If so, what action is being taken?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): As a result of the hon. member's question, the attention of my departmental officials was directed to this matter. They are studying the situation and I hope to have a report shortly.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTHEAST ASIA-RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to indicate very briefly to the House the position of the government with regard to the request of various Asian countries for a conference to study the re-establishment of the International Control Commission. Can the minister indicate the Under-Secretary is with him.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Inquiries of the Ministry

position of the government and at least mention the conditions under which the Canadian government would be interested in this proposal?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We would be prepared to attend such a conference, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, we support the idea of calling a conference on the very serious situation in Southeast Asia. We are also prepared, of course, to resume as a member of the International Control Commission. However, we have made it very clear that we do not want to return as a member of a commission that is as restricted in its operations as the commission that existed in Cambodia was before the Cambodian government asked us to leave.

We have indicated to the various countries primarily concerned the conditions that we think are essential, namely, that the terms of reference of the commission should be very clearly defined, that there should be provision for acting without unanimity, that there should be freedom of access to all regions, and that the commission should have the full support of all the parties that would be concerned in the area of conflict.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicate whether in his view any progress is being made toward an international conference being called with regard to the Cambodian problem?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to say that very much progress has been made. A number of initiatives are under way. We are trying to support them, but I cannot report optimistically about the prospects. Some countries seem to be adamantly opposed. Until they change their minds, we doubt very much whether a useful purpose can be served.

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER IN MALAYSIA ON CAMBODIAN SITUATION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs aware of the speech to be made tonight by the Prime Minister in Malaysia, and has the Department of External Affairs been consulted on the policy that is supposed to be declared by the Prime Minister with regard to the Cambodian situation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. My