

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I sent a telegram to the government of British Columbia indicating that I did not agree with that decision. However, the province of British Columbia can pass any legislation it wants, but I can assure the hon. member that, as far as I am concerned, the status of Indian reservations will not be changed for all that, and I do not believe that the move initiated by the province of British Columbia is appropriate at this stage because there has been no previous consultation whatsoever with the Indians. I have already discussed the general problem of the relations between the government of British Columbia and the Indians of that province with the Attorney General, and I wrote to him, but, to this day, we have not been able to solve all the difficulties.

[English]

KAMLOOPS RESERVE—NULLIFYING OF ELECTION OF CHIEF—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF TRANSCRIPT OF HEARINGS

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also related to the question of the Indians at Kamloops. Having regard to the fact that the department found it necessary to nullify the election of the chief there, is the minister prepared to table in the House the transcript of the hearings which were held in connection with that dilemma?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the rules allow me to do so, but I will inquire and if we can get consent of the persons concerned, I will gladly table it.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED NATIONS' DESIGNATION OF 1974 AS WORLD POPULATION YEAR—INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT ON PREPARATIONS BY CANADA FOR CONFERENCE

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact the United Nations has designated 1974 as world population year, with a big conference scheduled similar to the Stockholm conference on pollution, will the minister be making a statement as to Canada's preparations for input into that conference and, if so, when may we expect a statement?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in view of the widespread interest in this question I would respond to the hon. lady that we would want to give great support and if it would be useful for me to make a statement on our participation I would do so. I cannot say at the present time when would be the most suitable time. I would think it would be closer to 1974.

[Mr. Oberle.]

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): The reason I raise the matter now is that I believe it is of the highest importance that the minister should be thinking of plans to involve the Canadian people in seminars and discussions ahead of time. Otherwise the whole thing will just die—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That, of course, is a representation, and the member will have to assume that the minister has heard and noted it.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

PAY OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL ON VIET NAM SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Some time ago I drew the minister's attention to the fact that the foreign service allowances being paid members of the armed forces serving on the International Commission of Control and Supervision in Viet Nam were considerably less than those paid personnel from the Department of External Affairs. I asked him to see what could be done to correct this anomaly. Can he report to the House on the success or otherwise he has had in this regard?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall from earlier statements that in addition to regular pay and allowances we pay a foreign service allowance of \$150 for a single person and \$180 a month for married men. As this allowance was some \$70 below the allowance paid to Canadian civilian personnel serving on the International Control Commission I have recommended, and the Treasury Board has now approved, a new special foreign service allowance of \$70 a month for all personnel in our armed forces serving on the International Control Commission. I might add that this special allowance will be tax free and will be retroactive to January 29 for those personnel who left Canada on that date and to later dates for personnel who left later. I am certain the House will agree that this additional foreign service allowance is deserved by our personnel serving in Viet Nam.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the minister on his constructive action and wish to say that if other departments would come through with such action this government would not be in the spot it is in today.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT GERALD BLACKMORE BE REMOVED FROM DELEGATION ABOUT TO VISIT POLAND

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the information for this question has come to