

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Washington in support of the position taken by the Secretary General of the UN?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I have had an opportunity of reading the statement of the Secretary General. I can say that I have had discussions with the government of the United States during the past six weeks. The Canadian government is actively engaged in trying to bring about negotiations for a settlement of the conflict in Viet Nam. We regard the cessation of the bombing as one of the necessary steps. I feel, in view of the negotiations that are under way between Canada and other countries, that it would not be in the interests of the solution we have in mind for me to go any further.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if through the International Control Commission or through any other channels, the government has any information regarding the alleged feelers being put out by the diplomats in Hanoi as to the possibility of negotiations in the immediate future? Is the government optimistic that these feelers are, in fact, being put forth and that there is some hope of negotiations being conducted?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I cannot profess to be aware of all the attempts that are being made toward preliminary negotiations. I can say that the government is aware of particular negotiations, apart from those in which Canada may be interested. We have been in communication with the government or governments concerned in these negotiations and we are giving them every encouragement we can.

ISRAEL-SYRIA—STEPS TO DEAL WITH  
THREATENED OUTBREAK

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** I should like to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has he any statement to make to the house regarding the critical situation which is developing between Israel and Syria, particularly as it relates to Canadian personnel, their safety and their peace keeping duties under the UN?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** During the last few weeks, as my hon. friend knows, there have been a

[Mr. Douglas.]

number of incidents of increasing gravity on the Israel-Syrian frontier. We are concerned about these developments, and I have often so indicated to the parties involved. We hope that both sides will adhere strictly to their obligations under the armistice agreement and allow calm to be restored on that frontier.

The UN observers stationed on the Israel-Syria border have negotiated cease fires during several of the exchanges which have taken place. We trust that both sides will make full use of the UN peace keeping machinery in the area in order to settle their immediate differences.

[Translation]

**GOLD MINING ASSISTANCE**

QUEBEC—POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

I should like to ask him whether he has made himself acquainted with the brief submitted to his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Pepin) by the northwestern Quebec chambers of commerce with regard to the gold mining problem. Can he tell the house whether he has any solution to that gold mining problem in northwestern Quebec?

**Mr. Speaker:** I hesitate to tell the hon. member that, in my opinion, this question is much too general to be put at this time.

[English]

**RESEARCH**

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF FIRST VOLUME  
ON SPACE ACTIVITIES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Acting Prime Minister. Is it the government's intention to table the first volume of the report on Canada's space research activities dealing primarily with the project known as HARP, and will he comment on the government's rather equivocal position with regard to this project.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister):** May I take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.