

Inquiries of the Ministry

approximate information as to Soviet bombers asked in the question of the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam is not classified, why that information should not have been given in answer to the question on the order paper?

Mr. Hellyer: The question did not ask for approximate information, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Brewin: As a supplementary question, it asked for estimated figures. Can the minister tell us the difference between approximate and estimated figures.

Mr. Hellyer: Yes; the estimates asked for are quite accurate.

Mr. Peters: The only thing that is accurate in that department.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS**MALAYSIA—INQUIRY AS TO FORMAL
RECOGNITION BY CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is not about the Columbia river, but I think it is on a matter which is at least as important. It concerns the establishment of the Malaysian federation, which I know is welcomed by Canadians and commonwealth citizens generally. Could the minister advise whether and how the government has taken official notice of this happy and propitious event, and what are the plans for establishing diplomatic representations with this important new country?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the last part of the question this, of course, is a matter which will have to be considered, as it is now being considered, in the light of the date when the federation is expected to come into being, which is August 31.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REPORTED ACTION BY U.S. TO FREEZE CUBAN
ASSETS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question respecting the new United States regulations affecting Cuban trade and assets. Whether or not there is a question of privilege involved will depend, I think, on what his reply is today. At that time he said the government was investigating the matter, and in this morning's press there is an article purporting to state the official policy of the government.

Can he now answer the question I asked him last Tuesday respecting the new United

States regulations applying to Cuban trade and assets? When he answered me last Tuesday, as I pointed out, he indicated that the government was examining these new regulations to ascertain whether any Canadian interests might be affected.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I thank my hon. friend for giving me notice of this question. I have not seen the story to which my hon. friend directs my attention. I can only say the matter is not yet decided, because all of the facts are not before us. When these are before us we will decide what course should be taken, if any, and the house will be duly advised.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): A supplementary question. Has there been any change from the policy of the previous government toward Cuba? My question arises from a Canadian Press article appearing in several newspapers this morning.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not really see any urgency in that question, unless the minister wants to answer it.

Mr. Olson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Aiken: I should like to have an answer.

Mr. Speaker: There are serious doubts about the question in the first place, but I do not think we should enter into a debate on the point at this stage. The minister has taken notice of it and I am sure he will reply in due course.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could deal with it quickly. I would say in reply that if and when there should be any significant modifications in Canada's diplomatic or other relations with Cuba the house will be informed, in the same way as in the case of Canada's relations with other countries.

**NEGOTIATIONS FOR CORRIDORS THROUGH
ALASKA PANHANDLE**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the genial, generous but garrulous Secretary of State for External Affairs now that he has the Columbia river treaty negotiations apparently smoothly under way. Will he inform the house whether negotiations have yet been commenced with the government of the United States for corridors through the Alaskan Panhandle, thereby providing access to tidewater for northern British Columbia and the Yukon?