

Inquiries of the Ministry

state, but NATO decides according to its own treaty arrangements.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): May I ask a supplementary question. Is the Prime Minister leaving the house with the impression the United States would take immediate action under its position as the leader of NATO and leave Canada completely, shall we say, on its own, at loose ends?

Mr. Trudeau: That is not the impression I believe my answer gave, Mr. Speaker. I said the United States was a sovereign state and could act in the way it decided. However, the members of NATO will only act in the way that NATO decides under the charter.

INQUIRY AS TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF MAINLAND CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Harding (Kootenay West): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the Prime Minister's statement on the need for diplomatic recognition of the government of mainland China, made both during and after the federal election campaign, I should like to ask whether it is the government's intention to extend recognition to the mainland government of China. Will action be taken at this session, and has any move toward recognition been initiated to date?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We have been working actively toward this objective, which remains an objective of the government. We have not yet, however, had direct negotiations with the government at Peking.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Where does the activity come from?

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Will Canada support the bid of continental China to be a member of the United Nations this year?

Mr. Sharp: I do not expect there will be any change in the attitude of the Canadian government on this question at the present session of the general assembly. We intend to proceed in parallel in relation to recognition of Peking.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): May I ask a supplementary question. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs advise the house with whom Canada

[Mr. Trudeau.]

has been negotiating, if we have not negotiated directly with mainland China?

Mr. Sharp: I did not say we had been negotiating with anyone. I said we were working on the matter. We have been consulting with our ambassadors around the world. This is the type of consultation that is necessary. I think the house will understand that this negotiation is going to be particularly difficult, and it is one in connection with which there must be adequate preparation. I make no apologies whatever for taking adequate time because there is no objective of this government I consider more important than this one set forth by the Prime Minister and by myself during the election campaign.

[Translation]

BANKRUPTCY

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDING LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Is it the minister's intention to introduce in this house soon a new bill concerning bankruptcies, which he promised on June 29, 1966 and which has not yet been introduced?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): There has been a committee working on a revision of the Companies Act subsequent to the amendments which were made in 1966. I expect a report by the end of the year. We will work on the report, and I will be introducing a revised and totally new bankruptcy act as soon thereafter as possible.

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF STRAIGHT BASE LINES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning the Territorial Seas and Fishing Zones Act passed in this house in 1964. In view of the importance of this legislation as a conservation measure for the Canadian fishing industry, which is facing serious economic problems now, would the minister undertake to provide members of this house as soon as possible with a report on the efforts to date to reach an agreement