

that in the American constitution there is a radical separation of powers between the presidential wing and the congressional wing, and the threat at present seems to come, according to news reports, from the U.S. Senate, can the minister inform the House whether or not the Canadian Embassy in Washington has been instructed to keep in close liaison with the key American senators on the important finance committee to make sure that they know the Canadian position?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as I have also indicated on other occasions, there are various channels by which Canadian views are made known to key figures in Washington, and undoubtedly Canadian views have been made known to legislators by Canadian officials. I cannot, nor am I going to, indicate whether Canadian officials at the embassy specifically have made these views known, but I can say that Canadian officials have made our views known to a variety of important figures on the Hill.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Richmond wish to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Beaudoin: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I shall recognize the hon. member shortly.

[English]

USE OF UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM BY CANADIAN
CAR MANUFACTURERS

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can he inform the House if Canadian car manufacturers are taking advantage of the United States DISC program and, in view of the fact that they have the privilege of free trade, has the government, through the minister, lodged an objection?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Speaking to the last question first, we have on earlier occasions made our views known on DISC. My predecessor, I think, very clearly stated our opposition to this particular proposal. As to the first part of the question, if the automobile companies themselves have taken advantage of DISC, it is my information that they have applied and been granted DISC status. Whether they have in fact taken advantage in any unfair way is not a question that I can answer at this time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS—
REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES AND OTHER
PARTIES—CONTINUANCE OF CANADIAN PARTICIPATION
ON CONTROL COMMISSION

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the resumption of bombing raids by the United States Air Force in Laos, and in light of the

Oral Questions

clear provision in article 20 of the cease-fire agreement to which the United States is a party that foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos and totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries troops, materiel, etc. what representations has the Canadian government made or will it make to the parties in question and the United States in particular in respect of this continuance of hostilities?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in so far as Canada is a member of the International Control Commission, that particular article quoted by the hon. member does not fall within its competence. In general, I think it is pretty well known that there have been many violations of the peace agreement not only by the United States but by others.

Mr. Brewin: In light, however, of these breaches of the peace agreement referred to and the danger to the fragile peace in southeast Asia, will the government reconsider its position in regard to the continuation of Canada as a member of the International Commission of Control and Supervision and convey to the government of the United States and others that if this situation continues we will have to withdraw?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary for us to reconsider. The whole matter is under continuous consideration. This is one of the factors that will have to be taken into account when we make our decision whether or not we will continue.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister had an opportunity to give consideration to the possibility of consultation with our colleagues on the commission with respect to the reconvening of the parties in Paris?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have been awaiting a report from the International Control Commission on the helicopter tragedy and until we receive that report we think it would be inadvisable to go any further.

[Translation]

SUGGESTION THAT CANADA ASK UNITED NATIONS TO
IMPOSE SANCTIONS AGAINST BURUNDI

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Can the minister say whether he intends to suggest to the United Nations that trade sanctions or other reprisals be taken against the military government of Burundi which is made up of members of a minority tribe and which have executed in the most cruel fashion from 100,000 to 200,000 members of the Hutu majority tribe?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not our intention to raise this question in the United Nations in the form suggested by the hon. member.