

Inquiries of the Ministry

house we advanced most strongly our support of the intensification of the use of article 2. We pressed upon the then government the need of action in this regard. When the presentation of the three foreign ministers, to which the hon. member made reference, was made representations were made on behalf of Canada which had the support of members in every part of the country.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is right.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In connection with article 2, I think, as one of the Canadian representatives, I will be able to speak with the assurance that every part of this house is in favour of a further extension of the application of that article.

ATOMIC ENERGY

AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY FOR CO-OPERATION IN
PEACEFUL USES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I may make a statement. I desire to inform the house that there was signed earlier this morning an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The terms provide that the agreement shall come into force upon an exchange of notes to that effect, an exchange which the government intends to carry out later this month. With the leave of the house I shall cause to be deposited with the Clerk copies of the agreement in English and in French.

I do not intend to go into details of this agreement, but I desire to make some comments on it. The agreement was negotiated during September of this year on the basis of a draft prepared by Canada. That draft has been made available to a number of other governments which have expressed an interest in the possibility of concluding an agreement of this nature with Canada. We hope there will be a number of such agreements concluded before long. In this connection I might add that negotiations have been carried on with the government of Switzerland, and we are hopeful that the outcome will be successful and that an agreement with Switzerland will soon be forthcoming and brought into effect.

The agreement with Germany which has now been signed will provide for co-operation between the two countries on a reciprocal basis. That is to say, it does not envisage a one-way traffic, but rather that each government will assist the other as appropriate and on a basis of equality. The co-operation

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

involved may take a variety of forms, including the exchange of information, the supply of equipment and materials, and access to and use of facilities. In particular, the agreement will permit arrangements to be made for the supply of uranium from Canada to Germany.

In all cases the activities involved must be directed solely to peaceful ends, and there is provision for adequate safeguards to ensure that materials such as uranium, which are essential to an atomic energy program, shall not be diverted to any military use. I emphasize this point, Mr. Speaker, that adequate safeguards to this end are assured. The safeguards provisions, I may add, are modelled closely upon those of the international atomic energy agency of the United Nations.

I desire at this point to say a few words about the relationship between such bilateral agreements and that agency, of which both Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany are members. Canada wholeheartedly supports the newly established international atomic energy agency, which is designed to encourage, to complement and to assist the efforts of governments, individually or in co-operation on a bilateral or multilateral basis, to develop and apply the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It is quite possible that when the agency is fully operative, as it is not now, the supply of such material as uranium from one country to another will frequently be arranged through it.

As I informed you a moment ago, the statute provides also for bilateral agreements. Provision is made in the statute of the international agency for safeguards in the case of bilateral agreements. The present agreement makes no explicit reference to such an arrangement; neither the international atomic energy agency nor any other suitable international body is yet in a position to apply safeguards, but the possibility of transferring the safeguards functions for which provision is made in the agreement to a mutually acceptable international body is one which could be raised by either party at a later date.

With the leave of the house I am depositing a copy of the agreement with the Clerk of the house.

The terms of the agreement provide that it shall come into force upon an exchange of notes to that effect. As I have already informed the house, it is our intention that this exchange should take place this month. We are confident that this agreement and others like it which may be negotiated with other friendly governments will be supported by all members of the house. I think we can