

United Nations food and agriculture organization, is it the government's intention to recommend any reduction in Canada's contribution to that agency?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement was designed to make sure the money contributed to this very important organization is well spent, and that the administration of the agency itself will make sure it is well spent. This was all he had in mind, to make sure the administration makes certain the money is well spent.

Mr. Patterson: May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the minister's views have been formally submitted to the directorate of the FAO?

Mr. Pearson: I know that the Minister of Agriculture is attending the meeting in Rome and has been in touch with the director. I know also that not long ago the director was in Ottawa and we had a chance to discuss with him the administration of this organization.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NORTH VIET NAM—PROTEST RESPECTING CANADIAN POSITION ON CONTROL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question I wished to put to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but in his temporary absence I shall direct the question to the Prime Minister. Has the government received a protest from the government of North Viet Nam concerning Canada's alleged non-neutral position as a member of the international control commission? I ask this question in view of a news report this morning over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reporting this protest.

Mr. Speaker: The first part of the question is in order.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I have also seen that news report, but I have had no message of any kind confirming it. I will get in touch with the minister when he returns later this afternoon to see whether external affairs has had any message from North Viet Nam.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the Prime Minister, when speaking to the Secretary of State for External Affairs,

Inquiries of the Ministry

would also ask him to look into the question of what steps are taken by Canada, if any, to prevent the export of war materials destined for Viet Nam.

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will discuss that matter with my colleague.

[*Translation*]

VIET NAM—INQUIRY AS TO RECENT PEACE PROPOSALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alcide Simard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I had a question to put to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but in his absence I shall direct it to the Prime Minister.

Concerning the war in Viet Nam, could he tell the house whether a recent proposal for a valid and durable peace treaty has been made on both sides by the belligerent parties?

[*English*]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of certain proposals that have been made on one side. I am not aware of any proposals for a negotiated peace having been made on the northern side.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Simard: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What is the compromise which the right hon. Prime Minister intends to propose to the belligerents concerning the administration of South Viet Nam?

Mr. Speaker: I think the question is much too broad to be answered now.

[*English*]

POLLUTION

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT ACTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the continuing controversy concerning air pollution in southwestern Ontario, does the government intend to take action on a national pollution abatement program, and provide leadership on a country-wide basis on this urgent matter?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am