

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Italian resolution and the ineffectual aspect of it, may I ask the minister why Canada did not set down a resolution putting forth the views expressed by the minister in the speech that he made to the assembly?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, in the statement I made last Wednesday to the general assembly I explained why we did not take the course which my hon. friend now suggests. We have had consultations with a number of governments over a period of several months regarding our ideas about how an advance might be made on this important problem. Our view was that certain guide lines should be included in the Italian resolution, and because these were not incorporated we could not co-sponsor the resolution.

We did not formally present a resolution because it was clear from our consultations that while our views were widely held, the governments concerned were not prepared at this time to give effect to and support to these ideas. It would have been regressive and would have had a negative result for us to put forward a resolution that would not have carried with it the substantial support which we sincerely believed our position warranted.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we did put forward ideas which we felt would provide a solution to this problem. We continue to believe that the ultimate solution will incorporate these ideas. I believe a consensus is developing in the United Nations in support of these propositions, and I am sure this will be an effective supplement to the necessary diplomacy that must be carried on outside the UN.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to ask the minister a question about the speech he gave at the United Nations to an empty chamber, as the press showed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Robichaud: Cheap.

Mr. Churchill: I want to ask him how Canada voted when the resolution finally came before the United Nations.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I can only say with regard to the statement I made on behalf of the government of Canada that while it did not command the immediate reaction a speech from my hon. friend would have commanded, I think I can say that the Canadian position

and the Canadian initiative at the United Nations during the past few days is generally regarded as being one of the factors that has now moved the United Nations from the immobilism of the last 16 years.

On the three propositions which were before the general assembly our position was this. First of all, on the question moved by the United States that this was an important question requiring a two thirds vote, Canada, in accordance with its interpretation of the charter, voted that this question was an important one within the rules and required a two thirds vote.

On the Italian resolution, we had explained that we would support it even though we felt it was inadequate because it did not incorporate our concept of the realities presently existing in Asia.

On the Albanian resolution calling for the seating of Mainland China and the expulsion of Taiwan, we abstained from voting. By that abstention we introduced a new element in Canadian policy; we abstained because an abstention represented our view that Mainland China should be seated, but not at the expense of Taiwan.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the secretary of state what logic he sees in a situation in which Canada abstains from voting on this resolution, which if carried would exclude nationalist China and seat Red China, when the stated and reiterated policy of the government is that both these Chinas should be seated in the United Nations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid of the reply the hon. member might receive to this question. We have had a number of supplementary questions on this point. I suggest we go to another subject, and if within the 30 minute period we return to this subject I shall recognize the hon. member who now seeks to rise.

[*Translation*]

CROWN ASSETS**PUBLICATION OF ITEMS FOR SALE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Minister of Defence Production.