

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the statement the minister made earlier today. Since it is highly unlikely that the minister visited the Scandinavian countries purely on a good will mission while the house was in session, may I ask whether he knew, prior to leaving Ottawa, that a high ranking diplomatic official of the People's Republic of China was to be in Stockholm in the latter part of June? Was it the minister's intention to meet that diplomatic representative? If it was, may I ask what caused the mix-up?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I have had the greatest difficulty in persuading the press that I did not go to Scandinavia in order to meet the Chinese in Stockholm. I have made these denials time after time and always they have been received with apparent disbelief. In fact, I did not go for the purpose the hon. gentleman alluded to. I did not know when the Chinese ambassador was to arrive in Stockholm.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is our cable code communication from Stockholm so insecure that our Canadian ambassador is afraid to send vital messages to the minister in Ottawa, thus making it necessary for the minister to go to Stockholm and talk face to face with the ambassador?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think the question as asked is in order.

RECOGNITION OF MAINLAND CHINA IN
ONE-CHINA POLICY

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government either made an offer or agreed to the withdrawal of diplomatic recognition of the Chinese government located in Taipei in exchange for diplomatic exchanges with Peking? Perhaps I could rephrase the question. I was trying to be very precise. In short terms, has the government agreed or offered to withdraw recognition of the People's Republic of China located in Taipei in exchange for diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China located in Peking?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As I have stated on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, we have had a one-China policy, intend to have a one-China

[Mr. Sharp.]

policy and we will recognize only one government. If we can reach agreement with Peking, it will be the People's Republic of China government.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. So there is no misunderstanding, if agreement is reached to have diplomatic recognition with Peking, I take it we will then be withdrawing our present recognition of Taipei?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE—TRANSFER OF
MATERIALS ACROSS CANADIAN
TERRITORY

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that Canada is a signatory to the Geneva protocol of 1925 against the use of chemical and biological warfare, will the Prime Minister inform the house whether Canada's part in the diabolical research and development of chemical and biological weaponry is being reviewed in the present review of our defence policy with, I hope, a view to terminating it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have already asked that this type of question be made part of our review: the degree to which we are bound by the Geneva protocols and the arrangements thereunder. I have no report as yet to enable me to answer that question.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Prime Minister whether there is any possibility of the house being informed of the results of that review within a reasonable time, either before we rise or very shortly after we come back in the fall?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this, of course, is linked to the over-all review of policy which will be presented to the House of Commons. I have no timetable to propose to the house at this point on that question.

Mr. Lewis: I wish to direct a further supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On Wednesday last I asked the then acting minister some questions about the possibility of the transportation of germs and other elements of chemical and biological warfare over Canadian air space. May I ask the minister to inform the house whether any shipments of such materials take place from the United States into or over Canada by planes, trucks or trains?