

*North Viet Nam*

But after examining the motion moved by the hon. member, I think it is a substantive motion. The hon. member suggests that certain documents should be made available to members but the Standing Orders prescribe a procedure to be followed in such circumstances. The hon. member wants to move a motion for production of documents, a motion which could be in order, debated and voted on. It could even be carried unanimously by the House if the hon. member could convince his colleagues that this is a matter of interest to all of them.

In that sense, may I be allowed to suggest to the hon. member that his motion is a substantive one and that it should be moved as a motion for production of documents under the Standing Orders of the House.

commission in Viet Nam and make it more consistent with its role.

I think it is just and reasonable that our country entertain balanced relationships on the matter of the cease fire between North and South Viet Nam.

[English]

It is also appropriate, particularly in view of the need that Canada must face in the area of reconstruction of both Viet Nams, that we maintain relations with Hanoi and Saigon. Our country has long established the practice of recognizing countries of differing political ideology and regime in order to foster a more productive international climate in terms of peace and co-operation. As has been the case with the recognition of other countries, this particular recognition must not be seen as an acceptance, either implicit or otherwise, of the political practices or philosophy of the country involved.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wagner:** Now that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has addressed himself to one of the outstanding matters concerning our continued role in Viet Nam, my colleagues await his decision to allow parliament to establish its views clearly and concisely by allowing the Viet Nam resolution to be brought back before the House for a clear and forthright vote by members of all parties. The country and those who are serving us overseas have the right to hear and see that vote.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, would have liked to have a little notice so that I could have collected my thoughts on this subject in order to make the few brief remarks the rules permit me to make. However, I have no hesitation whatever in warmly welcoming the statement that has been made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp).

There are probably very few in this House who are sympathetic toward the political system and the ideology of North Viet Nam. There are also probably very few of us who are not aware of the fact that the people of that country are energetic, efficient and, some people would say, a heroic people who have suffered much. In our view, it is of the utmost importance that, in the period of reconstruction, in the period of pacification, in what we hope is a new era of peace in southeast Asia, Canada should be represented. I say once again that we warmly welcome this announcement and we believe it will be welcomed by the people of Canada.

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****OPERATIONS IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that in all of the provinces participating in DREE programs the joint planning committees are standing in abeyance, reportedly not to be reconvened nor replaced, in view of the impending major policy announcement to the premiers of the

• (1410)

[English]

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS****EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the government has decided to recognize North Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. I am pleased to announce that last night the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) sent messages expressing his satisfaction at the signing of the Paris agreements to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet Nam, which Canada already recognizes as the sole legal government of South Viet Nam, and to the Premier of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The message to the Premier of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Pham Van Dong, and my statement today constitute our act of recognition of his government.

The effect of this decision is that Canada now accords equal status to the government of the Republic of Viet Nam and the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, which should facilitate the work of our delegation to the new International Commission for Control and Supervision. It is not our intention, at present, to establish diplomatic relations with either.

[Translation]

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has seen fit not to inform us of his statement before 1.55, which obviously makes more difficult the reply of the official opposition. I hope that this does not reflect the consideration given to the question by the minister.

Mr. Speaker, the decision of which we have just been informed by the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) represents for our party a step which should facilitate the Canadian participation in the control

[Mr. Speaker.]