

Inquiries of the Ministry

through the International Control Commission, is the government of Canada making any representations to the United States about this matter and expressing its views and its concern about the widening of military operations in Southeast Asia?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be rather premature for the Canadian government to express any views upon American policy until the President of the United States explains the basis upon which this apparent escalation of the conflict has been justified.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the last couple of weeks I have asked both the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister whether the Canadian government would at least follow the lead of France and other countries in calling for a reconvening of the Geneva Accord nations. At that time the government indicated it would be prepared to participate but not to call for such a conference. May I ask now whether the Canadian government would be prepared to join with other nations in endeavouring to put this question on the agenda of the United Nations so that the matter can be dealt with on an international basis instead of allowing it to drift into what could be a very serious war in Southeast Asia?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government would, of course, be prepared to look at any proposal that might help to end this conflict. We would be prepared, of course, to participate in a conference. I can reaffirm that position on the part of the Canadian government. As to bringing this matter before the United Nations, I would have thought this a rather doubtful proposition in view of the fact that several of the countries principally concerned are not now adequately represented there.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister has told us all the things we cannot do. Can the minister tell us about any useful contribution Canada can make, or does the Canadian government intend to sit by as it has done in the Viet Nam war and allow the situation to deteriorate?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

SUGGESTED TERMINATION OF DEFENCE-SHARING AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in view of the deepening crisis in Cambodia and in view of the increased United States involvement there, will the Canadian government now give serious consideration to terminating the Canada-United States defence-sharing arrangement?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. The reasons for continuing our defence-sharing agreement with the United States have been explained on many occasions. But I should like to say to my hon. friend and to the Leader of the NDP that I did not hear the same sort of concern expressed about the presence in Cambodia of troops from North Viet Nam.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

POST OFFICE

ADMINISTRATION OF DEPARTMENT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. It is in reference to the administration of the Post Office Department which is currently facing grave problems. Does the Prime Minister not believe that there is some legitimate public and parliamentary concern as to who is now administering this trouble-starved department? If so, will he not penetrate this unbecoming curtain of silence?

An hon. Member: Answer!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Regina East.

Mr. Macquarrie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the Prime Minister will not show consideration to the House and to the people, may I appeal to him to show consideration for the Postmaster General himself in light of the accusation that there is apparently not room in the country now for him and the Minister of Labour at the one time?

GRAIN

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. Can the minister inform the House now when the regulations in connection with operation LIFT