

Inquiries of the Ministry

member, as this is considered to be confidential information. I understand that after discussions with the hon. member he is now prepared to withdraw his motion.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Is the motion withdrawn?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Motion withdrawn.

[*English*]

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining Notices of Motions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw to the attention of the parliamentary secretary again two motions which I drew to his attention on June 2, two weeks ago. One was Motion No. 234 which, as I pointed out, is a relatively simple motion which replaced another motion I withdrew from the order paper after discussion with the department concerned. The other was Motion No. 232 which was approved on May 19 and the answer to which has not yet been tabled. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could look into these matters as soon as possible.

Mr. Jerome: I will do so, Mr. Speaker.

between Mr. Seaborn and the appropriate minister or Prime Minister of the time respecting this affair?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I have not yet examined the record, which is now being prepared for my examination, I find it difficult to answer the question specifically. It is my intention, however, to be as factual and as complete as possible. Whether the instructions are anywhere in writing or whether most of them are oral is the problem.

Mr. Stanfield: It is difficult to understand why it takes the minister so long to make a statement which he agreed yesterday is important in terms of early clarification. When will the minister make a statement on this matter?

Mr. Sharp: I thought I had said tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. I thought that is how I began my answer. I intend to make my statement tomorrow.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): A supplementary question. If, as the minister has just told us, Mr. Blair Seaborn was not acting as an agent of the United States government, was he presenting a message from the United States on behalf of the government of Canada?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. The activities of Mr. Seaborn were in accordance with Canadian policy which was to try to end the war in Viet Nam.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I wonder if the minister could answer two questions when he makes his statement tomorrow. First, is there in writing any clear notification to the other members of the International Control Commission that the Canadian representative was acting in this manner and, second, have other Canadian representatives on the International Control Commission also carried such messages for any governments, including the government of the United States, to the North Vietnamese?

Mr. Sharp: My predecessor, the former Secretary of State for External Affairs, answered a question in the House in July, 1965, in which he gave an account of some of Mr. Seaborn's activities at that time. That is why I said yesterday that there has been no wish on our part to have any more mystery about this matter than is necessary. The answer to the second part of the hon. member's question is in the affirmative, yes. We have reason to believe that the Polish representative on the International Control Commission has acted in a similar capacity from time to time.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question. Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs table copies of the messages conveyed by Mr. Seaborn in this matter regardless of whether Mr. Seaborn was acting on behalf of the government of Canada as the minister has said? In view of his assurance that he wishes to have everything on the table as much as possible, will the minister table these documents along with or prior to his statement in the House tomorrow?

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRANSMISSION OF UNITED STATES MESSAGES TO HANOI IN 1964 BY CANADIAN OFFICIAL—TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs now say whether or not he will table copies of the messages transmitted from Washington to Hanoi in 1964 prior to the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to make a statement on Mr. Seaborn's activities when he was a member of the International Control Commission. I should like to say now, however, that there were no messages in the sense that the United States instructed us to have any messages carried from them to Hanoi. Mr. Seaborn at all times was acting for Canada.

Mr. Stanfield: Would the minister be prepared to table in the House copies of any directives to Mr. Seaborn from the government of Canada or correspondence

[Mr. Jerome.]