

to indicate Canada's willingness to accept adult refugees as well as orphans?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have communicated with the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees, as my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has said, and have indicated that we will support and assist any international movement to alleviate the human misery that is unfolding in Viet Nam. There is not a specific refugee declaration now. We are expediting, to the degree we can, the sponsored and nominated relatives of Canadians and landed immigrants in Canada who have been coming to our Canadian immigration centres these past few days to give us the information and the names which we have been sending to Saigon. I have to say, however, that there are extreme difficulties in locating them in Viet Nam.

As of this moment there have been about 5,500 names sent over which were given to us during the last week, and to locate them in Viet Nam is difficult. Secondly, the Vietnamese government is making quite clear it will not casually consider giving exit visas to adults between the ages of 16 and 43. So, we are inhibited in relation to what we can do under the circumstances, and have indicated our willingness to consider support for any international action the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees might wish to discuss with us.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH VIET NAM—POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST TO UNITED NATIONS ON MILITARY OFFENSIVE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and relates to his answer to the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley with regard to the position of the Canadian Government in respect of the major military offensive which has caused this undue suffering of orphans in South Viet Nam in particular. Has the government made a formal protest in respect of the position that was set out by the minister through the proper formal channels of the United Nations and if not, why not?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have made no formal protest. We certainly support the analysis of the situation in respect of the human aspect recently made by the Secretary General, but we have not proceeded through the United Nations.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would be prepared to tell us why not?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I believe what we are seeking to do at the present time is to take a constructive role in the humanitarian field and come to the assistance, where possible, of the innocent civilians involved. That appears to be the proper role for Canada which at the present time has no effective political role which it can play in the situation, except to urge the parties to cease

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hostilities which has been done already and which we will continue to do.

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AGRICULTURE

QUOTAS ON BEEF CATTLE FROM UNITED STATES— POSSIBILITY OF REMOVAL

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister inform the House if the cattle quotas will be lifted or will be allowed to lapse after they have run their year and whether he can raise any hopes after his visit to Washington that Canadian feeders may again have access to the United States market?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the first question, I am not sure what the hon. member means about the cattle quotas being lifted. Perhaps he might explain that further. In answer to the second part of the question the meeting between myself, our officials and the American officials and my counterpart, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, was a very productive meeting.

Mr. Ritchie: Mr. Speaker, the first part of the question had to do with the application of the cattle quotas on United States cattle presently entering Canada.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, that all depends on how productive the meetings are which we hope will follow the very productive meeting we had last Wednesday in Washington. These matters have to be discussed and proper programs have to be worked out. I believe they feel the same way.

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TRANSPORT

RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF REVIEW AND EVALUATION PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. On March 11 the minister stated that within a week an announcement would be made outlining the form and the procedure in which the review and the evaluation proceedings would take place with respect to the 6,000 miles of rail line trackage which is secured for a period of one year to the end of 1975. I wonder if the minister has as yet formulated or concluded the process under which this review will take place, and can he say when an announcement can be expected?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): There have been a few delays, which everyone understands. I hope we can do it this week, Mr. Speaker.