

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

regard to his giving favourable consideration to on-site inspection of nuclear tests by the use of what are termed black boxes?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Within the last day or two there has been made public an exchange of letters between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev on this particular subject. They may turn out to be of great importance and, if the house so wishes, these letters could be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Briefly, the present position is that an understanding seems to have been reached on the principle that a test ban covering underground tests should be verified by a control system including (i) national detection systems; (ii) automatic seismic stations in various areas, including the territory of the nuclear powers, which would be serviced by international personnel; and (iii) a certain number of on-site inspections. The main point remaining to be dealt with is the number of on-site inspections which would be permitted. The U.S.S.R. is suggesting two or three and the United States is suggesting eight or ten. Negotiations are continuing in Washington, however, and we hope that these matters can be settled without delay. I would point out that representatives of the United Kingdom are to be sitting in on the talks tomorrow.

An agreement on this vital subject may possibly be within sight. We have repeatedly emphasized the crucial importance of a test ban treaty both from the standpoint of human health and as a first step toward curbing the armaments race. The simple fact of east-west agreement in this field would also provide a significant psychological impetus toward wider agreement on disarmament and perhaps other issues. We are convinced that President Kennedy, Prime Minister Macmillan and Chairman Khrushchev recognize these facts, and that outstanding differences will be judged in the light of the immense gains which a treaty ending nuclear weapons tests would bring to all mankind.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I regret that following the reply given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs I omitted to ask leave of the house for the insertion in *Hansard* of certain communications to which the minister referred. He asked that they be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*. Does the hon. minister have that leave?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Editor's note: For text of documents referred to above, see Appendix "C".*]

[*Mr. Herridge:*]

COLOMBO PLAN—REPORTED CRITICISM OF REDUCTION IN CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the secretary for external affairs. A former Colombo plan administrator has criticized the Canadian government for reducing its contribution to the plan. Can the minister inform the house if it is the intention of the government to bring Canada's contribution up to the level of former years?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think in view of the fact that the hon. member is asking the minister to comment in some form or other upon the statement of a person outside this house he will recognize that his question is out of order.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

DESIGNATION OF LAKEHEAD CITIES AS POSTAL AREA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William):** I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General, notice of which has been given. Has the minister received from the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur a request for the designation of the united cities as one postal area and, if so, has the government given any consideration to this proposal?

**Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Postmaster General):** I have heard not only from these two municipalities but from the chambers of commerce connected with them, and the matter is under study.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES

WINNIPEG—REPORTED TRANSFER OF REPAIR WORK TO MONTREAL

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the discussions which took place in Winnipeg during the Christmas recess concerning the proposed transfer of the T.C.A. overhaul base from Winnipeg, has the minister a statement to make as to whether or not the government is looking into this matter?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Yes, the matter is being looked into. We are anticipating the arrival of a delegation from the provincial government