

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****VIET NAM WAR—SUGGESTED STATEMENT ON POSITION OF GOVERNMENT—CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION BY UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday the Prime Minister answered a series of questions about the grave new crisis in Viet Nam and suggested, I think, that a statement of the government's position, if it had one, might be made either by himself or the minister. Does the minister propose to make a statement in the near future on the government's position with regard to this crisis?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I read what the Prime Minister said yesterday. He said we were considering whether we should make such a statement. After consideration, I can say that I do not think it would be helpful at the moment to make such a statement and I do not propose to make one today or tomorrow.

**Mr. Brewin:** Will the minister seek to have the situation in Viet Nam brought before the Security Council of the United Nations as a grave threat to the peace of the world?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, we very strongly support the offer of the Secretary General of the United Nations to make his good offices available for this purpose. We would have no objection to the matter being brought before the Security Council if those more directly concerned felt this was desirable and if the Secretary General so felt. We are not a member of the Security Council. On the other hand, we certainly would not turn down any place where this war can be brought to an end.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Prime Minister clearly pointed out that he was not going to be waffled into virulent anti-Americanism regardless of pressures that might come from various parts of the House. Believing in that, has he given serious reconsideration since yesterday to at least saying something that will reassure the people of Canada that, in the opinion of the government of Canada, what is actually taking place today in Viet Nam is something that is in keeping with the very difficult position in which the United States finds itself there?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I can satisfy the right hon. member, but I will try by merely stating that we in this party see no need to try to prevent disunity by practicing anti-Americanism.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Prime Minister is so completely in agreement that I do not see any reason for the applause I am receiving from the opposite side of the House. I ask the Prime Minister, and I hope I get the understanding of those members who have understandings, whether he is prepared to at least join in saying on behalf of Canada

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that the United States ought not to be condemned as it is in certain sections of this country today?

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

\* \* \*

**NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE****PROPOSED PROGRAM, "NEW HORIZONS FOR THE AGED"—EARLY INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION**

**Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. During his budget speech on Monday evening the Minister of Finance announced the establishment of a new program entitled "New Horizons for the Aged" to help retired persons participate more fully in the community. Will the minister say whether he will soon present legislation to establish this program?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the nature of the program requires specific legislation in the sense that I think the hon. member has in mind. As the Minister of Finance indicated, I will be elaborating on the details of the program shortly.

\* \* \*

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PROPOSED NUCLEAR TEST BY FRANCE—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It arises from the fact that in the past the government has been very circumspect with regard to nuclear testing by other countries. What is the attitude of the government with regard to the intention of the government of France to conduct atmospheric nuclear tests in the South Pacific this summer?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have the impression that question has already been asked, but the minister might be allowed to reply briefly.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, by way of answer may I be permitted to table a copy of the note that was delivered to the French government on this subject?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

\* \* \*

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****INCREASE IN COST OF FOOD—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF CAUSE**

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of