

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNITED NATIONS****VIET NAM—SUGGESTED ACTION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On March 11 I asked the minister whether, in view of the serious situation of the children of Viet Nam and their plight as a result of the war, the United Nations or some agency of that body was giving consideration to evacuating these children from the war area. In reply the minister stated that he would make an examination to see whether this is being considered. Has the minister made this examination and is he able to advise me on this matter?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have been in touch with officials of the United Nations through the United Nations specialized agencies which have undertaken specific projects in Viet Nam. However, the sort of extensive evacuation program referred to in my hon. friend's question is not now under consideration by the United Nations. Practical possibilities do exist, however, for helping the victims of the recent upsurge in hostilities. The Canadian government has considered favourably an appeal for assistance from the government of the republic of Viet Nam and we will supply aid to the extent of some \$200,000, including food, refugee supplies and the sponsorship of medical volunteers.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**REDUCTION IN BUDGET FOR NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. During the adjournment debate on March 14 the minister, speaking about health services for the Indian people, said, as recorded on page 7662 of *Hansard*:

—we have been able to maintain at least the same level of expenditures for northern health services and Indian health services as was established last year.

May I ask the minister how he can reconcile that statement with the directive that has been issued by his department to all chiefs and councillors of Manitoba Indian bands, which leads off by saying that the federal government has been forced to reduce its program—

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question is certainly argumentative. He is asking the minister to reconcile a statement made to the house with the statement to which the hon. member refers, which is argument.

Mr. Simpson: Then, Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question and ask the minister when he will be able to make a statement to the house to clear up the situation that now exists regarding reduced health services for the Indian people in northern Canada.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I hope to be able to make the statement before adjournment, preferably, if I am permitted, when my estimates are reached.

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government reconsider its policy of halting any increase in expenditures on northern health services in view of the fact that the mortality rate among Indians and Eskimos in Canada is among the highest of any country in the world?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the hon. member is restating a question that has been asked in precisely the same terms.

AGRICULTURE**INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE TO GREENHOUSE INDUSTRY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce but in his absence perhaps I can direct it to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the prime importance of the representations that have been made to the government on behalf of the greenhouse industry, can the minister indicate whether the government has yet formulated any policy?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there has been any final resolution of the presentation that was made by the greenhouse industry. The representations are being studied by my department as well as by the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Tariff Board. Any government action that is taken as a result of these representations will be taken in the normal fashion.