

*Oral Questions***IMMIGRATION****INQUIRY WHETHER VIETNAMESE GIVEN REFUGEE STATUS**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Yesterday in the House I asked him a question specifically referring to Canada's role in the acceptance of South Vietnamese refugees. As reported at page 5108 the minister said:

—indeed one of my officials will be in New York tomorrow talking with him on that subject.

He was referring to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Has the minister anything further to report on those discussions, and has any decision been made by the department respecting Vietnamese refugees?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it was yesterday, but in any event my official is in New York today and he will be seeing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees either this afternoon or tomorrow, I am not sure which. Obviously, I do not have any further report flowing from that meeting. I can only confirm what I told the hon. member the other day as to the answers we have had from the UN high commissioner's office so far, which are to the effect that there has been no declaration of a mass refugee movement. We have indicated our willingness to assist in and support any such activity based on any international action that he might recommend.

* * *

INDUSTRY**MICROSYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL—POSSIBILITY COMPANY PAID PENALTY FOR ILLEGALLY EXPORTING EQUIPMENT TO MALAYSIA**

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Would the minister explain to the House whether or not Microsystems International paid a fine or penalty to the federal government for illegally or improperly transferring or exporting equipment to its subsidiary in Malaysia, the equipment at the time being the subject of security for a federal government loan authorized by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any illegal act on the part of Microsystems International or any kind of penalty, but I will be pleased to make inquiries.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—REASON FOR WITHDRAWING ALL REPRESENTATIVES FROM SAIGON**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Acting Prime

[Mr. Sharp.]

Minister. Why has the government of Canada closed down completely its operations and its representation in Saigon, knowing that there may well be Vietnamese who are not Canadians who may want to get out of the country and who may get permission to come out? Why has the government at this time closed down its whole operation there and not even left anybody on the ground at all who could provide quite possibly a humanitarian service, and who could be taken out in the future if need be by the Canadian Armed Forces?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we hesitated for some time before taking this decision. We consulted with the governments of other countries that were in a similar position to ourselves, and our action was accompanied by similar action on the part of most of the friendly countries. It was not followed by the French who have taken quite a different attitude, but I do understand it was followed by the British, for example.

It is a common action that one takes in order to protect the lives of those whom we have asked to serve in Saigon. The point arrived when it was believed that they would soon come under fire, and we felt that in their interests—I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would agree—it was prudent that we should take this action.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**RENTAL OF SPACE IN CHAMBLY BUILDING—PAYMENT OF RENT BEFORE OCCUPANCY**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Yesterday I asked the Solicitor General a question about the RCMP renting office space in Ottawa which will not be ready until November 1, yet they are paying rent in the amount of between \$600,000 and \$700,000 commencing February 1. In view of the fact that three months have elapsed and we have paid about \$200,000 in rent, and in view of the fact that I inspected the premises today and every floor is empty, that there is not one partition on any of the floors, would the minister look into the matter and stop the wasteful spending of government moneys—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gilbert: —and set an example of government restraint?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, after the hon. member asked his question yesterday I asked the RCMP for a full answer and they will have it for me tonight when I appear before the justice committee on my estimates. I would expect the hon. member to be there tonight to put his question to me and members of the force will be there to answer it.