

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNITED NATIONS****BIAFRA—SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF BOMBINGS**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of constant reports of bombing, rocketing and strafing of hospitals and market-places and of children in feeding centres in Biafra, will the Canadian government consider asking the United Nations, or some other international agency acceptable to both sides, to investigate these allegations in the hope of alleviating the situation for the people involved?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, there is no way by which the United Nations can investigate these reports unless there are allegations of genocide. A civil war is going on, and the sooner there is agreement on the basis on which negotiations can take place the better. The delay is not because of lack of mediators. It is because of lack of agreement as to whether Biafra is going to be part of Nigeria.

Mr. Nystrom: As a supplementary question, can the government of Canada help promote such negotiations by setting up some kind of indirect negotiation with the Biafra government?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NIGERIA—DELEGATION FROM SOVIET UNION**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I also wish to direct a question to the minister. In view of the alarming reports today of a high level military delegation from the Soviet Union visiting Nigeria, is the minister able to report the implications of this visit to the house?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to go into an analysis of the political situation in Nigeria. I do not know there is a delegation visiting there from the Soviet Union. I think this is one of the reasons that it is highly desirable that this war should be brought to an end as quickly as possible, and I hope that all those who have influence on either side will use their influence to that end. A ceasefire is not the answer. The answer is a basis of agreement for peace talks. Until that is reached there is little hope.

[Mr. Speaker.]

EXTERNAL AID**BIAFRA—AIRSTRIP TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF SUPPLIES**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question dealing with the matter of a truce and the conditions existing at the moment. In the light of the continuing threat of mass starvation in Nigeria, will the Canadian government reconsider giving assistance in the construction of an airstrip within the Biafran occupied territory, which could be used with the consent of all parties for the delivery of mercy supplies by day or by night?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government is not opposed to the building of another airstrip, but I think everyone will agree that the best way to get supplies in immediately is by agreement for day flights to the airport that now exists.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's remarks to the effect that there must be peace at the earliest possible date and that members should use what influence they have on all sides to this end, would the minister on behalf of the government use his good offices to urge the federal government of Nigeria to initiate at least initial discussions without preconditions?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be very difficult to urge upon the federal government of Nigeria a solution that contemplated the secession of Biafra.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I did not say that.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**PROHIBITION OF ADVERTISING SALE AND IMPORTATION—REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I welcome him back from his interesting and different experience in the other place. Does the minister propose to bring in Bill S-26 with amendments to deal with the very interesting change proposed in the other place?