

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****IRAQ—PROTESTS AGAINST EXECUTIONS**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of reports that further public executions are to take place in Iraq tomorrow, I think, will the minister inform the house whether the Canadian government has made any representation to the Iraqi government on these proposed executions, protesting against them and asking that government not to carry them out?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government is profoundly disquieted by reports that there may be further mass executions in Iraq following those which took place on January 27 and February 20. As hon. members are aware, we have conveyed to the Iraqi authorities our humanitarian concern about the developments of the past two months. In addition to humanitarian considerations, there is the danger that actions of this kind may reduce the prospect of achieving a peaceful and accepted settlement in the Middle East. I know that the Secretary General of the United Nations has been following this question very closely.

I asked my officials today what it was that the Secretary General had said. I am informed he gave a very careful statement which reflects the concern which we all have that we should not do anything to exacerbate the difficulties. The Secretary General said that he has been following this question very closely, has indeed been in touch with the two governments concerned over the week end, and that it would not be in the public interest to say more. I should very much hope therefore that the Iraqi authorities will avoid steps which may cause a further deterioration of the situation and prolong the search for peace.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the house which two governments the Secretary General of the United Nations is referring to? Are they Iraq and Israel? Would he also inform the house whether he has requested our ambassador in Teheran who, if I remember correctly, is also assigned to Iraq, to make personal representations on this matter today?

Mr. Sharp: It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the Secretary General was referring to Iraq and Israel. As the hon. member

[Mr. Sharp.]

knows, I have had some representations from the Canadian Jewish Congress, and others, to try to take whatever action we could to help the position of the Jews in Iraq. It is in the light of that consideration that I feel I ought to act carefully. I will take his suggestion into account that we should make further representations. I would also ask him to consider that we may find there are other ways of achieving some benefit for those unfortunate people.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say how the arrangements are progressing regarding the possible acceptance by Canada of Jews from the Middle East, particularly from Iraq?

Mr. Sharp: These matters are progressing, Mr. Speaker, and I hope in a few days to be able to make a report.

LABOUR RELATIONS**WOODS REPORT—INQUIRY AS TO IMPLEMENTATION**

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): My question is to the Minister of Labour. I do not know whether he can answer at this time, but I would ask the minister in regard to the Woods task force report whether the government intends to proceed by way of legislation based on the report, or by referring the report itself to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): It is my intention, Mr. Speaker, to amend or revise the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act. Certainly I will take into consideration the recommendations of the Woods report. How we are to proceed with that report has not as yet been determined.

IMMIGRATION**ADMISSION OF UNDESIRABLE PERSONS—REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE STUDY**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I direct this question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. My recollection is that Jerry Rubin, the yippie leader, was in early January officially declared ineligible for entry into Canada. My information is that he has been making speeches for the last week. Would the minister say what the circumstances were which changed the order which was made in January so that this revolutionary trouble-maker could come to Canada?