

for External Affairs for his courageous and forward-looking statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member for York South rising for the purpose of addressing himself to the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I want to say first that if the Secretary of State for External Affairs felt, as he should have felt, that the subject required a statement by him—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member does not have the floor for the purpose of entering into debate on what appears to be a point of order raised by a number of hon. members a moment ago. He should limit his comments to the substance of the statement made by the minister.

**Mr. Lewis:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what I thought I was doing, in my own mind at least. I say that if the subject matter in the minister's mind deserved a statement to this House, it ought to have been made at a time when it would not evoke the kind of laughter and hilarity we have witnessed.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Why did hon. members give their unanimous consent, then?

**Mr. Lewis:** We are delighted that the Polish government and the Federal Republic of Germany have entered into this treaty. It is significant that Mr. Brant has pursued this kind of policy of trying to ease tensions between West Germany and the countries of eastern Europe ever since he took office.

**Mr. Sharp:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lewis:** I say that that should have led the minister representing this country as well as ministers representing other countries at the NATO discussions to take further steps which ought logically to follow this treaty between West Germany and Poland.

**Mr. Sharp:** We did.

**Mr. Lewis:** They ought to try to solve the problem of a general German treaty, the problem of Berlin, and the other problem which still threatens the peace in Europe. It is not enough for the minister to welcome a step that has already been taken. I say to him in all earnestness that this is merely one little step taken by the two governments concerned, and that there will not be a settlement of the problem in Europe until he and other representatives of other governments are prepared to agree to some kind of security conference or other conference leading to final settlement and a peace treaty between Germany and the other nations involved in the last war.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

**POLLUTION**

**PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWING DERAILMENT OF RAILWAY CARS CONTAINING SULPHURIC ACID**

**Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I have a very urgent question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In his absence may I direct it to the acting minister. Following the derailment of sulphuric acid tank cars which were part of a CPR train near Sudbury and the spilling of sulphuric acid into the Pickering River, can the minister advise the House if proper anti-pollution precautions have been taken or will be taken?

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, the latest information received is that nearly all of the 93 per cent H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, sulphuric acid, estimated at 1,300 tons contained in the tank cars, has escaped. A large amount of the acid is reported as lying on the ground and has not yet reached the river. Seventy-five tons of lime have been transported from Sudbury, and is now being spread over the spilled acid. More lime is coming from Toronto and is expected on site this evening. The OWRC have an engineer on the site supervising the operations. The Department of Lands and Forests has an aircraft and a biological crew at the site looking for signs of fish mortality and other biological damage.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**FISHING BOUNDARIES AROUND ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON—LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the controversy surrounding the fishing boundaries and limits around the French-owned islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, would the minister make an early statement in the House on what progress was made in connection with this matter during his talks while he was in Europe recently attending NATO ministerial meetings?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this subject did not arise in the conversations I had while in Europe.

**Mr. Crouse:** Bearing in mind the strong views expressed at the United Nations by Mr. J. A. Beasley, head of the legal division of the Department of External Affairs, concerning the desirability of a new law of the sea covering territorial limits, exploitation, pollution and conservation, would the minister indicate whether any progress has been made toward convening an international conference to deal with these matters and, if so, where and when will such a conference be held?

**Mr. Sharp:** I should like to take notice of that question. I think the general answer is that progress is being made, but I will ascertain the extent of that progress.