

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 30, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### CAMBODIA—CONSULTATION BY UNITED STATES WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON AMERICAN SUPPORT

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who I would have thought would not find it necessary to be in the province of Quebec today.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** So perhaps I could address it to the Prime Minister—oh, the minister has arrived.

**Mr. Baldwin:** The late Mr. Sharp.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question relating to Cambodia. In view of the special relationship which we assume exists between Canada and the United States and the fact that Canada is a member of the International Control Commission in Indochina, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether there was any consultation with the government of Canada prior to President Nixon's announcement yesterday of United States air and technical support in Cambodia?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, the Cambodian government asked the International Control Commission to leave Cambodia. The answer to his direct question is that there was no consultation.

##### CAMBODIA—REACTIVATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION AND GENEVA CONFERENCE

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs could tell the House what progress has been made in

the active negotiations that the Prime Minister assured the House on April 17 were being held with the other members of the commission, India and Poland?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we have had consultations not only with the members of the International Control Commission but while I was in France the Foreign Minister, Mr. Schumann, discussed his idea of reviving the Geneva Conference or of holding a meeting of all of the countries concerned. We have talked with the British government about this. We have had some consultation with other governments to try to see how we might play a useful part. We have made it very clear in connection with the International Control Commission that we would not be prepared to return to Cambodia if we were asked to return unless agreement were reached by all the parties as to the functions of the International Control Commission. We see no point whatever in returning to the kind of futile exercise which prevailed before the Cambodians asked us to leave.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs could tell us what is the status of negotiations with regard to a new Geneva Conference? What prospects are there, in brief, of such a conference being held?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think they are very good at the moment. There has not been agreement among the principal countries concerned as to the calling of such a conference. Some proposals have been put forward, some tentatively, but there has obviously been no consensus yet.

##### SPREAD OF WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA—REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES—CONSIDERATION BY UNITED NATIONS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. In view of the concern in Canada about the war in Viet Nam, which will be now deepened by virtue of the widening of hostilities into a general war covering Southeast Asia, and in view of our indirect involvement