February 25, 1970

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government of Canada seriously considering economic sanctions against the Union of South Africa?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition will have to await the government's statement.

SOUTHERN AFRICA-ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government consider the chance to help maintain the independence of countries in southern Africa by making them a showcase of Canada's interest and concern by stepping up aid for their development and by exchanging diplomats, particularly with Zambia?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is the government's intention, as has been made known, to increase our appropriations for external aid, which I hope will be approved by Parliament, particularly for development. Africa is one of the areas in which we intend to have an increase. I will bear in mind the points made by the hon. gentleman.

INQUIRY AS TO WHITE PAPER

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Now that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has some doubt as to what the relations between Canada and the Union of South Africa are, can he give us an approximate date when we may expect the long-promised white paper on foreign policy?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without answering the first part of the question, which was not a question but a remark, I have already said in the House on a number of occasions that we intend to table these papers, maybe one or several, before the end of the session.

An hon. Member: In October.

EXPANSION OF U.S. ABM SAFEGUARD SYSTEM —AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—CONSULTA-TION WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for Exter-

Inquiries of the Ministry

nal Affairs. In view of the statement yesterday in Washington by Defence Secretary Laird regarding the construction of four more missile bases, may I ask the minister if the Canadian government has been consulted regarding the increase in the ABM system, particularly with reference to the Sprint bases which will operate close to the Canadian border? Also, has the Canadian government been consulted with reference to the second underground nuclear test at Amchitka to try out the new Spartan missile?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have said before in the House, the United States has made its decision on its own so far as I know—certainly not after any consultation with Canada. Similarly, the Soviet Union has just announced a program for the building of ABMs. This has also been done without consultation with us.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since two of the missile bases will be close to the Canadian border and since the Amchitka underground test could have very severe consequences for the Canadian people, is the Canadian government making any representations to Washington about either of these programs?

Mr. Sharp: Well, Mr. Speaker, I expect we shall be expressing some views from time to time on these questions. If we feel that there is any special reason, such as there was at the time of the first underground test at Amchitka when we felt our interests were especially affected, we will of course make special representations. As the hon. gentleman knows, it is the view of the Canadian government that these enormous expenditures on armaments are most undesirable, and we have been working hard in order to bring about progressive disarmament.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. On February 2 the minister intimated that he had not then received from the United States government the results of the first tests at Amchitka. Has he now received the results of those tests and any information as to the extent of the new tests which, according to newspaper reports, are to be three times as large as the previous tests?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, we have not yet received the information. I have had some intimations that it is not yet ready but that it