

## Oral Questions

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF LAND NEAR CHILLIWACK—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister considering the purchase of some 700 acres of prime agricultural land near the Canadian forces base at Chilliwack at a cost of some \$1,600 per acre?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I shall make inquiries. I have not heard that the department is looking at that kind of property at that price.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST TO NORTH VIET NAM ON  
RECENT HOSTILITIES

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the ongoing attempt to assist the civilian population of South Viet Nam, in particular orphan children, could the minister advise this House whether or not Canada has sent any recent formal or informal protest to North Viet Nam concerning these further recent outbreaks of hostility in Viet Nam which are affecting the civilian populace of that country?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, last week I issued a statement which contained the views of the Government of Canada with regard to this unfortunate human tragedy that is unfolding in South Viet Nam. I have not made a protest or denounced the situation as such, but have made the comment that a major military offensive is under way and that the Government of Canada deplors this fact and particularly the effect the offensive is having on so many innocent civilians in the area.

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## IMMIGRATION

ORPHANS FROM SOUTH VIET NAM—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO  
SPEED UP IMMIGRATION PROCESS

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It is further to the minister's earlier statement in the House. I wonder whether he could tell us what steps if any have been taken to speed up the immigration process in respect of South Viet Nam's orphaned children in light of the fact that individuals seeking to adopt these children are receiving vague and conflicting statements from immigration offices on this matter?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I think my earlier comment in reply to the Leader of the New Democratic Party went a long way towards clarifying that, as indeed I would hope

[Mr. Buchanan.]

my public statements over the last few days have, but we most certainly, if I may reiterate, have been expediting the removal from Viet Nam of orphan children for whom there has been authority from the South Vietnamese government for exit and for whom adoption proceedings in Canada were completed or under way. Clearly, that is the category we have been expediting. Some 62 children arrived yesterday at Vancouver, most of whom were then transported to Montreal and placed in the hands of the families who have been waiting to receive these children, in some cases for several months and in other cases for several weeks. Our best estimate in a confusing situation is that there may not be more than another 50, 100 or 150 children left in Viet Nam who were in that process at the time this special tragedy began to unfold the other day. So, we do not anticipate great numbers.

I might say again in respect of the Canadian families who have recently offered in a great way to adopt children that very few of them will receive children because, as I indicated earlier, it is the group that was in process before this emergency developed which we are bringing forward as rapidly as we can under the circumstances.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ASSISTING ADULT REFUGEES  
FROM VIET NAM

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary in respect of Viet Nam and is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the event of further deterioration of the situation in Saigon to the point where the functioning of the government would be seriously impaired, does the Canadian Government have any policy to independently assist adult refugees as well as orphans to come to Canada?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as I intimated in an earlier answer, upon which my colleague elaborated, the Government of Canada would listen to any requirements or recommendations made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and would consider any international effort in that direction. That situation has not yet arisen. We are presently dealing with orphans and nominated and sponsored relatives. That is the situation up to the present. My colleague may wish to elaborate further.

**Mr. Speaker:** One supplementary by the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

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## IMMIGRATION

CANADIAN POSITION ON ADMISSION OF ADULT REFUGEES  
FROM VIET NAM

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the minister communicated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees