

Inquiries of the Ministry

cubic feet per second, and further shows that this is identical with the flow to be expected under pre-project conditions.

Accordingly I am informed that the construction work in the international rapids section is not in any way diminishing the levels of water in lake St. Louis.

OTTAWA RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Now that the Prime Minister has listened to the report of the Secretary of State for External Affairs with regard to the pollution of the St. Lawrence river, and having himself seen city of Ottawa sewage pipes dumping raw sewage into the Ottawa river, is it his intention to introduce an amendment to the Criminal Code which would make it a criminal offence to pollute interprovincial waters?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there have been enough complaints already about the length of the session and the amount of legislation still to be brought before parliament. I think hon. members generally will be satisfied if at this session we cover the items of which notice has already been given. At a subsequent session the matter in question will certainly deserve consideration.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDONESIA—STATEMENT ON REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING REPORTED THREAT TO PEACE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I desire to respond to a question that was addressed to me and accepted by the leader of the house on December 7. The question was asked by the hon. member for Algoma East (Mr. Pearson) and reads in part as follows: . . . whether the government will consider making representations to the Indonesian government, perhaps through diplomatic channels, in regard to the . . . action being taken in Indonesia against Netherlands nationals and Netherlands interests.

In reply, Mr. Speaker, may I say very emphatically that the Canadian government is much disturbed over the actions which are reported as taking place in Indonesia and which might, if they are not checked, disturb the peace and stability of the area. We are deeply conscious of the human problems involved and of the possible unfortunate consequences to all parties concerned. It is our earnest hope that counsels

[Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac).]

of moderation will prevail, and that the Indonesian government will exercise restraint on those extremist elements who seem to have been responsible for the worst excesses and who seem to have got out of hand as far as the Indonesian government is concerned.

The matter is under discussion in the NATO council, and I am also expressing our concern to the Indonesian government through its ambassador here. The house may be assured that we shall do whatever we can to encourage them toward moderate courses in this unhappy instance.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs say whether or not he has given special consideration, in view of events in Indonesia, to the appointment of an ambassador at the earliest possible date to replace the ambassador who recently relinquished his duties at Jakarta?

Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac): That matter is under consideration, and we shall have an ambassador there as soon as possible.

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION EXTENDING "VICTIMS POLICY" TO REFUGEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister what consideration, if any, has his government given to passing legislation granting relief from confiscation of the Canadian assets of victims of nazi persecution in Roumania, Hungary, Poland and other countries during world war II by extending the so-called "victims policy" to Roumanians, Hungarians, Poles and others who have escaped from those countries and are now in the free countries of the world and in dire need of financial assistance?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I answer that question very simply and say that as yet no consideration has been given to that matter. The question raised by the hon. gentleman is one that has a natural appeal to those who believe that wherever freedom is upheld the victims of the persecution to which my hon. friend has referred should certainly receive every consideration. I very much appreciate the question and the suggestion of the hon. gentleman.

NATO—REPORTED DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE PREPARED BY UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.