

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****RHODESIA—REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH
COMMUTATION OF DEATH PENALTY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, has the government of Canada had any discussions or been in consultation with Britain in respect of the position taken by Rhodesia in ignoring the commutation of the death penalty by Her Majesty?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could supplement that answer. Just before coming into the house, before I had a chance to talk to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I received a telephone call from the United Kingdom high commissioner to the effect that he had a message from his Prime Minister bearing on this matter which he wished to deliver to me this afternoon.

Mr. Nesbitt: Perhaps I should direct this supplementary question to the Prime Minister. What is Canada's position in this regard, and has the Canadian government expressed support for the British government? Are discussions under way at the present time in relation to what the Prime Minister indicated in respect of a review of the sanctions now in effect?

Mr. Pearson: I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs dealt with this matter either yesterday or the day before. I prefer not to add anything until I have had a chance to study the latest communications.

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Considering the danger inherent in the action taken in Rhodesia, and noting its lack of success, did the Prime Minister of Great Britain consult with his fellow Commonwealth prime ministers before advising the use of the royal prerogative in Rhodesia?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker.

**REPORTED AGREEMENT FOR PROTECTION OF
NATIONS NOT HAVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question regarding the report that the United States, the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain have accepted a nuclear non-proliferation agreement designed to protect countries which do not possess nuclear weapons. Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs have any

[Mr. Speaker.]

further information regarding this agreement, and can he tell us what steps the Canadian government will be taking to promote and support this agreement?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in the discussions on the non-proliferation agreement, as is well known Canada has been strongly in favour of this proposal. We recognized, however, the position of certain countries whose security interests might be jeopardized, and the agreement among the Soviet union, Britain and the United States with regard to action that might be taken in the Security Council by a non-nuclear state for protection against a nuclear power is one that we think advances very considerably the possibilities with reference to a treaty which we regard to be so fundamentally necessary at this time.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Am I to take it that the Canadian government will be in accord with this agreement, and will be seeking through the Security Council to promote its accession by other countries?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The particular agreement in question has not yet been considered by the government. The non-proliferation treaty up to now has been considered by the government and given strong approval. I have not yet had an opportunity of bringing forward the interim arrangement that has been reached among some of the great powers. I will be making a recommendation to my colleagues shortly and I am very hopeful that Canada will be able to join other countries in supporting this particular agreement that now is so essential for the acceptance of the treaty as a whole.

Mr. Douglas: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I take it that when a decision has been reached the minister will be making a statement to the house?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us whether the government is giving consideration to proposing certain amendments to the non-proliferation treaty along the lines suggested by some of the countries which find they are unable to accept the agreement as it now stands?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is the purpose of the agreement reached by some of the great powers.