

APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM BY
CUBAN ATHLETE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I should like to address to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has a ruling yet been made with regard to the application of the young Cuban athlete in Vancouver to remain in Canada and be granted political asylum?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not remember. I am going to check and I shall give an answer to the hon. member tomorrow.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STATEMENT BY QUEBEC PREMIER RESPECTING
EDUCATIONAL DELEGATION TO GABON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is he aware that the Quebec premier has said that he did not receive any note from the government in Ottawa concerning the Quebec delegation to Gabon?

Moreover, can the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us at what time that note was sent to the Quebec government, and whether he is willing to table it in the house?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Perhaps I ought to deal with that matter, Mr. Speaker, because the note was tabled by me. In that note which I tabled the other day I said it was suggested that the Quebec minister of education could head a Canadian delegation. That is the exact truth, and that suggestion was made. The question of a formal invitation, of course, could not arise because Canada itself had not at that time been invited to the conference. Indeed, in spite of our efforts to secure an invitation, we were not successful. But the words I used in my statement were quite accurate. The record will bear that out.

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the current difficulties between Canada, Gabon and the province of Quebec, would

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister assure the house that before continuing to push the federal cause the government will see fit to carry on the necessary constitutional discussions to clear up this matter?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, there were discussions with the province of Quebec from the very beginning of this matter.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, this is somewhat in the nature of a supplementary question, but it was supposed to be a main question. I ask the Prime Minister whether an official invitation has been extended to the Canadian government for the proposed educational conference in Paris which follows the one held in Gabon. Has the government been invited to participate in that particular conference?

Mr. Pearson: I do not believe any invitations have been sent in respect of that conference. If such an invitation to attend were sent to Canada by the sponsoring government, which in this case would be the government of France, of course we would be very glad to accept.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question.

Since Quebec has been invited to a conference on education to be held in France, can the right hon. Prime Minister tell us whether, on that occasion, the Canadian government intends to break off its diplomatic relations with France, as it has done with Gabon?

[English]

FINANCE

POSSIBLE IMPOSITION BY UNITED STATES
OF IMPORT SURCHARGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance. In view of the strong indication that the government of the United States intends to impose a surcharge on import tariffs as a means of correcting its balance of payments problem, has the government of Canada been in touch with the government of the United States about this matter? If so, has it received an assurance that any such surcharge if applied will not be imposed on Canadian products?