

Mr. CADIEUX: Yes.

Item agreed to.

35. Canadian representation at International conferences, \$357,000

Mr. DEACHMAN: What were the main conferences making up that amount of \$357,000?

Mr. CADIEUX: These are the main ones; council meeting of the contracting parties to the general agreement on tariffs and trade, \$20,000; commonwealth consultative committee for south and southeast Asia, \$15,000; international civil aviation organization, \$10,000; North Atlantic treaty organization meetings, \$12,000; United Nations general assembly, \$150,000; United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization, \$5,000; United Nations meetings of organs and subsidiary organs, \$15,000; international conference on consular intercourse and immunities, \$20,000; inter-American conferences, \$5,000; GATT tariff conference, \$35,000; Canada-Japan ministerial meetings, \$20,000; miscellaneous conferences, \$50,000, which makes a grand total of \$357,000.

Mr. BREWIN: Does this include only members of the department going to these conferences or does it include the possibility of members of parliament and other representatives going?

Mr. CADIEUX: This includes everyone.

Mr. BREWIN: Everyone?

Mr. CADIEUX: Yes, it includes everybody who is on the delegation.

Mr. BREWIN: I wonder if this would be the time to ask a question in respect of what steps, if any, are taken by the department in regard to the briefing of those who attend these conferences?

As you know we have heard some discussion and complaints from time to time, and I am sure this would not apply to members of the department. However, it is said to apply to members of parliament. Sometimes these members go to some of these conferences not as well informed as they might be, and I wonder if this would be a good time to mention that subject?

Mr. CADIEUX: Well, I can only say that the department will do its best at all times to provide all the information that it can to members of parliament.

But there is a distinction here between the delegations which are sent by the government to certain conferences. It depends whether it is a governmental or an intergovernmental operation. In one case, the members of the delegation become, in a way, servants of the crown and the information which is communicated to them is privileged information. In this way the brief can be more extensive. However, on some other occasions, when you have meetings that are not governmental you might find delegations consisting in whole or in part of parliamentarians, and at this time the type of briefing is different. It cannot involve classified material and although the department cannot help very much in that regard it will to the best of its ability collect material which is available from unclassified sources.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: This is rather interesting. Do you mean that members of parliament who go as part of a delegation are not entitled to classified material?

Mr. CADIEUX: No.

Mr. DEACHMAN: An example is the defence committee.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: But that does not make it right.

Mr. CADIEUX: What happens in practice is that you have meetings of delegations, where the head of the delegation is responsible to the government; he will take the members of the delegation into his confidence, explain the problems he faces and consult them. I have had an opportunity myself of being a