

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

arises from the position taken by that country itself, and from the conditions it has set for taking its seat in the organization. In my view, China itself must make an accommodation; it is not only for us to look to what can be done to approach the ideal of universality of the United Nations in this respect.

My hon. friend has asked me another question and, in the time available, I would simply like to say that, as he knows, since last December the government has been engaged in developing a proposal to give the International Control Commission a role in trying to bring about a negotiated settlement in Viet Nam.

The proposal is that the three members of the International Control Commission should agree to consider themselves as a body that would engage in a necessary probing to see if the gap between the various positions of the main parties concerned, as well as other countries involved, could not be narrowed. There have been discussions with both India and Poland, discussions in which it was basically recognized that at the appropriate moment the commission powers might assume the responsibility which we have in mind.

It is a fact that at the present time the opportunities for calling a Geneva conference do not look propitious. Nevertheless this gives the proposal that Canada has made a greater sense of urgency.

A great deal of ground work is required if the necessary foundation for the calling of such a conference is to materialize. I may assure my hon. friend that the Canadian government seriously is engaged in this and in related efforts to try to bring about a negotiated settlement. If some other instrument can be used for this purpose—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs, but the time allotted for his speech has expired.

The hon. member for Springfield.

AGRICULTURE—REQUEST FOR WHITE PAPER
ON NATIONAL POLICY

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, yesterday before orders of the day I asked the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) whether it was the intention of the government to table a white paper on a national agricultural policy, and whether it was the intention to do this some time within the next 60 days. In other words, I was

asking whether the government is in a position to state whether or not it would try to give to the house and to the country a national agricultural policy statement before the middle of the year, and fully three years after having taken office. I do not think this is a particularly unreasonable request.

I asked this question of the Minister of Agriculture yesterday for two reasons. First of all, I asked this question because the Minister of Agriculture himself has been in the habit of making occasional and intermittent references to what he considers to be desirable goals in respect of a national agricultural policy. For example, I have heard him say from time to time that it is about time the family farm and family folk found a place in the economic sun in this country. This is a very desirable sentiment to express, and I have heard him express it on several occasions.

Then, too, according to the press I notice that the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé), when speaking to an audience in Manitoba just a few days ago, made reference to the possibility of the government's coming forward with a white paper on agriculture. In fact I might quote from the report. According to the minister the federal government is on the verge of producing the outline of a national agricultural policy for Canada. The press report states:

Speaking at a press conference on the University of Manitoba campus, Mr. Sauvé said he wasn't ready to express his views on a national agricultural policy, but he claimed he had been "working hard" to have the government produce a White Paper on agriculture.

If ministers of the crown are to allow themselves the opportunity to make reference to what well might be desirable goals, principles or features of a national agricultural policy, I do not consider it an unreasonable request to ask them just what the government or the cabinet as a whole is doing with regard to framing or formulating the national agricultural policy.

If a minister of the crown can tell a group of people that the government is working on the formulation of a policy, then the minister or his colleagues should be able to tell a member in this house when it is hoped that his policy will be finalized and made ready for tabling in this house.

● (10:10 p.m.)

It is obvious that the farmers of this country would welcome a comprehensive farm policy statement by this government. Only a few weeks ago the Minister of Agriculture made a statement relative to dairy policy