

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****POLICY RESPECTING ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO
KIDNAPPERS OF JAMES CROSS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who has made a great to-do about people being awake today. Has he yet been briefed about the matter of the issuance of passports to the terrorists who went to Cuba, and is he now in a position to say what the policy of his department is in this regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the Leader of the Opposition is asking me to make a statement. This seems to have been ruled out of order.

Mr. Hees: Just answer the question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would ask Your Honour to rule whether the question is in order.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition is being very helpful. I thank him. I shall deliver solemn judgment. The first part of the question was in order, but not the second part.

Mr. Hees: Let us have an answer to the first part.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister to answer the first part of the question.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would rephrase his question so I can answer it accurately.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I am asking the minister whether he will tell the House what the position of his department is with regard to the issuance upon request of passports to the terrorists?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If we are going to be technical about this matter I suggest to the minister and to the Leader of the Opposition that the question would be in order if it dealt with the current situation. It is certainly not in order to invite the minister to make a statement which is normally made on motions. If the minister would like to reply to the first part of the question, as I suggested a moment ago, that would be quite in order.

Mr. MacInnis: Come on; let's have an answer.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I was quite serious in my answer to the Leader of the Opposition. It would take me some minutes to explain the position and therefore I suggest it would be better if the answer could be given as a statement.

Mr. Baldwin: Why not revert to motions?

[Mr. Andras.]

[Translation]

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON TREATY BETWEEN
WEST GERMANY AND POLAND**

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether my question is in order but I am also interested in knowing what the Canadian government's attitude is with regard to the treaty concluded by West Germany and Poland.

You have decided, Mr. Speaker, that we should revert to motions in order to allow the minister to make a statement. Could we not ask for unanimous consent of the House to revert to motions in order to allow the minister to deliver his statement? Otherwise, would the minister be prepared to make his statement on this important treaty tomorrow on motions?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I could answer this question very shortly and much more quickly than I could the question put by the Leader of the Opposition.

An hon. Member: The minister is wasting the time of the House.

Mr. Speaker: The question, as I understood it, is whether the minister would like to revert to motions for the purpose of making a statement or whether he will ask permission to make a statement tomorrow on motions.

Mr. Hees: What is the minister going to do?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to revert to motions?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CANADIAN ATTITUDE TO TREATY SIGNED BY
POLAND AND WEST GERMANY**

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we admire the courage and the realism that the Federal Republic of Germany has shown, as a part of its eastern policy, in negotiating this difficult treaty, which follows the one signed with the Soviet Union on August 12. We also commend Poland for its part in contributing, together with the Federal Republic of Germany, to a relaxation of tensions in Europe.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate the Secretary of State