

state been called to the proposal made on Saturday by the Earl of Home that the Soviet union agreed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to countries that do not yet have them, and his further statement that "if we could attach to it"—meaning a test ban treaty—"a treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to countries which do not possess them, that too would be an enormous gain"? If the secretary of state has had his attention called to this statement, will this affect the attitude of the Canadian government in this regard?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the minister wish to answer?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been informed of any new British proposal in this regard. However, the British government, like the Canadian government and the other western allies, have consistently been in favour of international arrangements to prevent the wider dissemination of control over nuclear weapons. We have supported a resolution in these terms sponsored at the United Nations by Ireland; indeed, this resolution has been unanimously adopted by the United Nations. We continue to believe that measures in this field should be given careful consideration and that their adoption will be of great importance in reducing the risk of war.

So far as Canadian policy is concerned, the hon. member will be aware that there is no question of Canada acquiring nuclear weapons in the sense of obtaining unilateral control over them. No action undertaken by this government with respect to existing defence commitments would run counter to this general policy; and we continue to share the view of other western governments that extension of exclusive national control over such weapons should be prohibited as far as possible by international agreement.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister feel that Canada has any further useful role to play in any 17-nation disarmament discussions, in the light of the statement made by the Prime Minister in this house that the extension of nuclear weapons to countries such as Canada which do not now have them makes it quite impossible for any Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs to argue against other countries having nuclear weapons?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman posed his supplementary question in the form of an argument, but I would say to him in reply that I am sure the great majority of Canadians feel that

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

there is increasing opportunity now for Canada to make a contribution in this very important field.

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### NUCLEAR WEAPONS—REPORTED STATEMENT BY DEFENCE MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. In an interview shortly after being sworn in the present minister is reported to have said that he expected a Canada-United States agreement on custody and control of nuclear warheads to be signed in about a month's time, an agreement which requires both parliamentary ratification and congressional approval as well as the signatures of the contracting parties.

In view of this statement, would the minister now refute his former claim, which misled the Canadian public, that the Conservative government had fully committed Canada to equipping its air squadrons and Bomarc missiles with nuclear warheads—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. member state his question?

**Mr. McIntosh:** Would the minister now refute his former claim that Canada had made such a commitment?

#### CHURCHILL, MAN.—STATEMENT ON MAINTENANCE OF U.S. AIR BASE

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the hon. member for Churchill asked whether the recent announcement regarding the closing down of the S.A.C. refuelling base at Frobisher Bay would affect the operation of the base at Fort Churchill.

In reply may I say that on May 15, 1963 a press release was put out under the authority of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In that release details were given to the effect that U.S.A.F. refuelling aircraft were to be withdrawn from Frobisher and Fort Churchill by July 1, 1963. This action was prompted by the development of newer longer range tanker aircraft, which has rendered further refuelling operations from these two bases unnecessary.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question