

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Are the federal government and the provinces trying to reach agreement on this subject?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member might have heard that we have been discussing the constitution with the provinces for some time.

**Mr. Saltsman:** Can the Prime Minister indicate specifically what progress the federal government is making with the provinces along these lines?

[Translation]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR TESTS

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Can he tell this House whether the United States have violated the Treaty prohibiting nuclear tests, signed in 1963, by carrying out the Schooner Project in 1968 which caused radioactive fallout in Canada?

**Mr. Speaker:** May I say to the hon. member that his question, as it is phrased, is out of order.

[English]

## BIAFRA—AID FOR STARVING CHILDREN

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but before asking it I should like to join in welcoming him back to the House. Can the minister say whether or not during the course of his visitations in the Middle East he communicated at any time with any representatives of Biafra or of Nigeria in order to bring about some arrangement whereby action will be taken by Canada to diminish some of the awfulness of the escalating suffering and death among children in Biafra in consequence of the shortage of food?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I found myself fairly busy in looking into the problems in the Middle East when I was in that area, but before I went there I had extensive discussions with all those concerned, the Nigerians, the Biafrans, the great powers and the representatives of Africa. I probably spoke to 25 or 30 of the leading spokesmen concerned with this problem. In my absence, of course, the Prime Minister and my officials have been carrying on these discussions. Unfortunately, while there seems to be some indication of progress

toward a settlement, one cannot be very sure. There have been so many disappointments in the past. But I do think it is wise, if possible, to depend upon the immediate neighbours of Nigeria to take on the prime responsibility, as has been urged upon us by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs let the House and the country know the names of the representatives of Biafra with whom he spoke at the United Nations or before the meeting of the United Nations? To whom did he speak from Biafra?

**Mr. Sharp:** I have forgotten their names for the time being, Mr. Speaker, but tomorrow I will be happy to give them. There were five of them and they included the leading representatives of Biafra in New York.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, shortly before the minister left for his tour of the Middle East he indicated that he was awaiting a report from General Wrinch on the possible resumption of air operations by the International Red Cross. Now that General Wrinch and the minister have returned, I wonder whether the minister has received a report from the general and what prospects there are in that direction.

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I met General Wrinch this morning in my office and he continued his discussions with my officials after I had to move on to another meeting. I discussed with him the possibilities of an air drop and of other forms of help which the International Red Cross might undertake in co-operation with the local authorities on both sides of the conflict.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did General Wrinch indicate to the minister when the Red Cross will be able to resume operations and whether or not they have obtained the necessary agreement from the combatants for such a relief operation?

**Mr. Sharp:** That is the subject matter about which I spoke to General Wrinch, particularly today. Needless to say I was not very hopeful because we do not seem to have been able to put enough pressure upon the Biafran régime to agree to daylight flights, which is the only way I know by which sufficient aid can be brought to those starving people.