

Inquiries of the Ministry

United States will not, in the light of developing situations, continue to be one of the mainstays of the organization.

Mr. Nesbitt: As a supplementary question, since the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in reply to an earlier question of mine that he made an announcement concerning the increase in aid to the Colombo plan countries last Saturday, some place or other, I wonder if the minister could make the announcement in this house as to the extent of the increase in aid?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I did make an announcement in the house on November 14—

Mr. Monteith: We were not sitting on the 14th.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —November 14, 1963—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —when I outlined a three year program, including the provisions for 1963-64 and 1964-65, I also answered a number of questions along this line which were addressed to me by my hon. friend in the external affairs committee during this session of parliament.

Mr. Nesbitt: Now that the minister has specified what year he was referring to, is he in a position to give us some indication of the specific amount of the increase in aid to the Colombo plan countries? Can he do that?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has perhaps forgotten that on that date, November 14, 1963 I indicated that we were increasing our contribution by some \$70 million in general terms. I went into considerable detail on this in the external affairs committee when my hon. friend was present, acting as a very distinguished and able vice chairman.

Mr. Nesbitt: I am sorry to belabour the point, but I have one further question. In view of the minister's circumlocution in this regard could he answer one question? Is an announcement to this effect going to be made to the United Nations within the next week?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend says "to the United Nations." The announcement is not made to the United Nations. This program for the developing countries is one provided under recommendations made by the government to this parliament, and has nothing to do with the United Nations as such. My hon. friend is probably confusing

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

this with the question asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam which had to do with the technical assistance program of the United Nations, and the UN special fund.

CONGO—EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF CANADIAN HOSTAGES

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

During the last few hours did he receive any communication from his representative in Africa, the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), who went out there to see if it would not be possible to obtain the release of the Canadian hostages held at Stanleyville?

We read all kinds of reports in newspapers, but we have had no official statement from the minister.

The house would like to know if the minister's ambassador was successful in obtaining the release of the Canadian hostages held in Stanleyville.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Red Deer is dealing with a critical and very important situation. He is doing his utmost, together with representatives of other countries. Unfortunately, the situation is so serious that we have not yet received any very favourable report.

But I may assure the hon. member that our friend is doing his best, and we acknowledge his efforts with pride and gratefulness.

[Text]

CANADIAN POSITION RESPECTING RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the coming apparent change of attitude of the United States toward China, particularly with reference to recognition of China, does the minister not think now is the time for Canada to take a lead by diplomatically recognizing China and thus put his words into action?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the validity of the premise involved in my hon. friend's question; therefore I could