

Inquiries of the Ministry

surplus in commodities last month for the first time in many months, and the over-all deficit in international payments is substantially lower. Also, the financial papers are full of statements showing how much better our position is, and what this government has done to accomplish this.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, if I might ask a supplementary question, am I to interpret the answer of the minister as meaning "No"?

(Translation):

TREASURY BOARD—INQUIRY AS TO PRESENCE
OF QUEBEC MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerard Legare (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the treasury board deals with all finance matters and even looks after staff transfers in the public service, could the Prime Minister tell the house why no Quebec minister sits on that said treasury board, and that ever since he has been at the head of the government?

(Text):

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have been sitting on treasury board for the last three weeks and there has been a French minister on the board all that time.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION YEAR—REQUEST
FOR STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke): Could the minister inform the house of any developments concerning the international co-operation year that has been proposed by India at the United Nations?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Sherbrooke for giving me notice of his question. I know of the great interest he has taken in United Nations affairs, having served with distinction a few weeks ago as a Canadian observer.

The house will be interested to know that the general assembly of the United Nations in plenary session this morning unanimously adopted by a vote of 86 in favour, none against and with no abstentions, a resolution co-sponsored by India, Canada and 18 other member states in pursuance of a proposal first advanced at the United Nations by Prime Minister Nehru for a year of international co-operation. The Canadian delegation played an active part in the drafting and sponsoring of this resolution, and extended its full co-operation to the delegation of India in seeking to muster the broadest possible support for it.

As a matter of fact, by arrangement between the co-sponsors only Canada and India spoke to the resolution this morning.

The resolution requests the president of the general assembly to nominate a preparatory committee of up to 12 member states to consider the desirability of designating 1965, which is the 20th year of the United Nations, as international co-operation year. It is expected that the preparatory committee will be formed early in the new year to begin co-ordinating plans and projects. It is considered that the designation of a year of international co-operation would serve a most useful purpose in stimulating a marked increase in the existing level of international co-operation and in a number of projects in diverse fields jointly undertaken on an international basis.

Canada firmly subscribes to these aims, and it is therefore a cause of deep satisfaction that the proposal of the government of India to which this government has lent its full support has now been unanimously adopted by the general assembly of the United Nations.

PORTUGAL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF
CANADIAN POSITION ON RESOLUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, notice of which has been given. In view of the minister's statement yesterday that Canada has been against the action taken by Portugal in Angola, is it correct that Canada voted against a United Nations resolution on this subject yesterday and, if so, would the minister outline the reasons for such vote by the Canadian delegation?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, Canada has been and is against the actions taken by Portugal in Angola. However, this resolution was a very extreme one. It contained a provision calling on the security council to impose sanctions on Portugal. It also had an operative clause which threatened Portugal with expulsion from the United Nations, and it had another clause which would prohibit any country from supplying any arms to Portugal for its own defence, even as distinct from any arms that might have been used in Angola.

As I have explained, Canada has not been supplying arms to Portugal for approximately two years. Because of the extreme nature of the resolution, particularly with regard to sanctions and the threatened expulsion from the United Nations, Canada voted against the resolution.