

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MAINLAND CHINA—DISCUSSIONS IN SWEDEN AS TO RECOGNITION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In connection with the questions asked last week, is the hon. gentleman now in a position to report progress in the discussions between our diplomats in Sweden and their counterparts of the People's Republic of China?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have no further developments to report at the present time.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, will the minister tell the house whether he has instructed Canada's representatives to suggest, during their discussions with the representatives of Peking, payment of the 13 million 1949 dollars spent by the Canadian government for the seven ships seized by the Peking regime at the time of its take-over in that country?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think all these negotiations will be facilitated if we have an exchange of diplomats, which is what we are trying to bring about.

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of External Affairs.

Would he tell us where the negotiations with Communist China now stand and advise us of the substance of the talks and of the decisions taken up to now with regard to that country.

[English]

Mr. Sharp: The hon. gentleman may not have been in the house when I answered a similar question a few moments ago. I have nothing further to report to the house.

POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO CANADA OF PRESIDENT NIXON

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As every postwar United States president has first conferred with the Prime Minister of Canada before conferring with other heads of states, and as President Nixon has announced

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meetings with the heads of state of five European countries, and Australia, and there has been no forthcoming announcement of any meeting with Canada, has—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask the question.

Mr. Hees: I am just giving a little background, Mr. Speaker. Has the Secretary of State for External Affairs been in touch with his opposite number in the State Department to find out the reason for this apparent downgrading of Canada's importance in the eyes of the American government?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. gentleman and all members of the house that we have been in touch with the United States administration about a meeting between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada. I am sure this will be arranged at a time that does justice both to our country and to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary question following that non-answer. Has the Secretary of State for External Affairs investigated with the State Department the story coming out of Washington during the weekend that the apparent coolness of the United States government toward Canada is due to the lukewarm attitude of this government in respect of our participation in NATO and NORAD?

Mr. Sharp: There is no substance in that. The President of the United States is most anxious to meet our esteemed and respected Prime Minister. If I may say so, I think there has never been a time when there has been greater respect in the United States for this country.

Mr. Hees: Is the President simply putting off the visit as long as possible?

HARBOURING OF DESERTERS IN CONTRAVENTION OF ALLIANCE AGREEMENTS

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that perhaps we should go on to another question. We would seem to be getting away from the type of question that should be asked and answered at this time. Do I