

Inquiries of the Ministry

these talks over the question of the so-called two Chinas?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this question because I am sure it is important that the matter be clarified. I have a brief but precise answer to the question which I should like to give.

We are not promoting either a two-China policy or a one-China, one Taiwan policy. Our policy is to recognize one government of China. We have not asked and do not ask the government of the People's Republic of China to endorse the position of the government of Canada on our territorial limits as a condition to agreement to establish diplomatic relations. To do so might cast doubts on the extent of our sovereignty. We do not think it would be appropriate, nor would it be in accordance with international usage, that Canada should be asked to endorse the position of the government of the Peoples' Republic of China on the extent of its territorial sovereignty. To challenge that position would, of course, also be inappropriate.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell the house whether, in the event of achieving diplomatic exchange with the government of Peking, it is the intention of the government of Canada to withdraw diplomatic relations with Taiwan?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, since the government of the People's Republic of China claims to be the government of China, obviously we cannot recognize two governments. The statement I made is quite precise on that point.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, if the Canadian government does succeed in being allowed to recognize the government of Communist China, is it the government's intention to recognize the government at Taiwan as a separate government?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, it is exactly for that reason I made my statement today. I hope the hon. gentleman will read it.

PENITENTIARIES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—STUDY RESPECTING SECURITY MEASURES

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor

[Mr. Anderson.]

General whether he is now prepared to answer a question posed several days ago as to action to be taken to make a study and, if necessary, improve security measures at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary following the escape of two murderers and another person?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I should like to advise the hon. member that a commissioner has been appointed. Judge Bisson of the Quebec Superior Court has been appointed as a commissioner to investigate that incident.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

INQUIRY AS TO ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that another officer of the law was shot and killed in the line of duty over the weekend in St. Boniface, is the Solicitor General giving consideration to enforcing the death penalty in such cases as stipulated by the law?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, since the courts have not yet passed on the charges that will arise out of that tragic occurrence I think any answer I might give today would only have the effect of prejudicing a fair trial of the accused. I believe I should not answer the question further.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I think this is what the hon. member was really asking. Is it now the policy of this government to commute all death penalties?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, I answered the same question when it was asked by the hon. member a few weeks ago. There is no question of a policy to be drawn from the decision of the Governor in Council in any single commutation case.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—RUDOLPH HOLOTA,
ASSISTANCE IN TRIAL

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister aware of the fact that a trial is taking place in Czechoslovakia of a man called Rudolph Holota considered to be a Canadian citizen, and is the Canadian government taking steps to see that a fair trial is accorded this man in respect of whom I understand certain charges have been made?