

Inquiries of the Ministry

regional development programs. This has been our policy and will continue to be so.

UNITED NATIONS

**CANADIAN POSITION ON ADMISSION
OF COMMUNIST CHINA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, arising out of a statement made by the Prime Minister yesterday to the Atlantic treaty association. Perhaps I may be permitted to quote one sentence from that statement, as follows:

If we exposed them—

He was speaking of communist China.

If we exposed them more to the views of the rest of the world, we might some day expect a more realistic policy from them. The present isolation of China encourages recurring crises.

I should like to ask the secretary of state whether this is now the official view of the government, and perhaps whether this is an indication of some action that Canada intends to initiate or support at the coming session of the United Nations.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the statement attributed to the Prime Minister yesterday was, of course, a statement which represents government policy, and is in keeping with the statement of government policy announced in this house on May 22. I am sure it commends itself to my hon. friend.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The second part of my question was, does Canada intend to initiate or support some action to bring China into the councils of the world at this session of the United Nations?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, of course Canada has now established growing contacts and commercial contacts with communist China. We now have an exchange of newspapermen. As to the course to be taken at the general assembly, I think my hon. friend will appreciate, in view of the importance of this question, that he might wish to examine in greater detail the statement which was made on May 22 in this house.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister by way of a supplementary question, and without entering into an argument

on the matter of communist China, whether he can give this house the assurance that before any statement of policy is made by the government in this connection, this house will have a day set aside in order to obtain the views generally of all members as of this time, so the government will fully recognize the variety of views that are held in this house in that connection.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, foreign policy, of course, must be achieved initially through executive acts of government, under our parliamentary system. Government policy in this regard is always subject to the scrutiny of parliament. I would hope there will be the fullest opportunity for a discussion of this matter before any action is taken, but the government must always observe its responsibilities in connection with these matters in the light of situations that could develop.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in that volume of words there is still no answer to this question. Recognizing the executive function of government and its responsibility for external affairs, before a decision is made will this house be allowed a day's debate on this question, so important not only to the international world as such but to Canada as well? That was my question.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of great importance, and I am sure my right hon. friend would not want to be projecting questions to elicit ill-considered answers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): If he did I would be very surprised. I would hope there would be an opportunity to discuss matters of this sort before any action was taken. I am not implying by that remark that there is any immediate action in mind. In the statement I made on May 22 there was a careful analysis of the situation that could develop at the next general assembly, and I suggest to my right hon. friend that he should read that statement and possibly use it as the basis of a question tomorrow.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, may I say to my hon. friend that reading it would be to have a source book for questions for the next few weeks absolutely dissimilar one from the other.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's statement in Tokyo that he hoped the government of the United