

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

agree that this event confirms the desirability of mainland China itself supporting the test ban treaty.

**Mr. Douglas:** Does the Canadian government intend to initiate any steps to encourage the bringing of the government of mainland China into the United Nations by itself establishing diplomatic relations with the government of China?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

RUSSIA—POSSIBLE EFFECT OF CHANGES IN PARTY LEADERSHIP

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** My question, likewise, is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that recent news reports indicate that many officials personally appointed by Mr. Khrushchev are today being removed from office, does the minister have any word for the house with regard to developments in the Soviet union and the possible effect of these events upon the general world situation?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this morning I had a visit from the ambassador of the Soviet union in Canada, who informed me that because of ill health Chairman Khrushchev has been relieved of the important responsibilities that were his as head of the government of the Soviet union. The ambassador took the occasion to state that I could be assured, and through me the people of Canada, that the foreign policy of the government of the Soviet union would not change. He also assured me that there would be no reversal of the policy of destalinization.

I would simply like to add that I intimated to the ambassador what I proposed to say in the house this morning; that it will be important to see if the new leaders will have the will to move forward toward a peaceful resolution of the basic issues such as disarmament, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the division of Germany, which are so important in the future of our world. I can assure the new leaders that the Canadian government, and I am sure other western countries as well, will be prepared and indeed happy to work with them in patiently exploring and implementing peaceful and equitable solutions of these vital issues.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

## UNITED NATIONS

## PROSPECTIVE OTTAWA MEETING ON STAND-BY UNITS FOR PEACE FORCE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am sorry I was not able to get in touch with him to give him notice. Is the conference on peace keeping operations to take place in Ottawa on November 2 and 3, as set out quite fully in an article in the *Globe and Mail* this morning; and does that very interesting article written by Mr. Stanley Westall accurately set out the plans and prospects for this conference?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the article in question; therefore I am not in a position to comment on it.

**Mr. Brewin:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, then, whether the minister would at some time make a statement to the house in respect of this conference. I would particularly suggest to the minister that he tell the house whether members of the opposition who are interested in this conference might be allowed to be present as observers. The conference is said in this article to be a low key conference, but perhaps that would not prevent members of the opposition being present.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, if I had a certain quality of humour I would of course say, in answer to the last comment of the hon. member, that this would be one good reason why the opposition should be present; but as I do not possess that type of sense of humour I will not make the observation.

**Mr. Brewin:** Will the conference take place?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I said in the house about a week ago, in answer to a question, that we fully anticipated that the conference would open on November 2. We had at that time unofficial information from some 11 countries of their willingness to accept formal invitations to attend. Formal invitations have now gone out, and I have no reason for believing that the conference will not take place on November 2.

## CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

## REPORTED STATEMENT BY JUSTICE MINISTER—INQUIRIES AS TO MATTERS DISCUSSED

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to ask the Min-