

Mr. Richardson: I think the hon. member might direct some of his inquiries on the buildup of aircraft and military equipment to the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries. We have clear evidence that the Soviet Union has been building up its military strength far beyond its defence requirements. We are playing our part in NATO to help to create a balance of military force which will be strong enough to maintain peace in the world.

* * *

[Translation]

OLYMPIC GAMES

ALLEGED SECRET DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. FRANCIS WITH OFFICIALS—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ALLEGED INFLUENCES ACTING AGAINST GAMES

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Would the minister advise the House as the results which have come up from the secret discussions between Mrs. Francis, an official of his department, and COJO representatives and other agencies eager to give a good image of Canada and Quebec during the preparation for the games and the actual Olympic Games in Montreal?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not aware of such discussions, secret or otherwise.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): They are so secret the minister does not know about them!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

The meeting which Mrs. Francis attended took place late in February, that means over a month ago and we still did not get any information regarding the outcome. Would the minister tell the House whether or not there is an international anti-Olympic campaign going on which might distort not only the image of Canada and Quebec in the whole world but also significantly reduce the impact of the policies carried out by various departments, federal or provincial, and which were aiming at publicizing the games and Canada?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: I will make inquiries about the meeting that the hon. member suggests was held a week or a month ago. As far as Canada's image with respect to the Olympics is concerned, that will be determined by Canada because no move, to my knowledge, has been engineered in any other part of the world.

Oral Questions

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SOME OF THE INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE TORIES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General who has been unusually silent with regard to a number of inquiries undertaken by his department. I suggest the people of Canada should be enlightened. Can the Solicitor General inform us as to the status of the following RCMP investigations: Sky Shops, the SIU, the Olympic village, cleaning contracts, Mirabel? Can he advise the House whether any charges are pending at this time?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not know whether the hon. member is serious in suggesting the Solicitor General should be given an opportunity to report on all those matters at the same time.

An hon. Member: Just one would do.

● (1430)

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I said many times, it is not the custom to comment in the House on police investigations while they are under way. I can say this about the Sky Shops investigation: the investigation has been completed and the evidence given to the Quebec Department of Justice for consideration relating to prosecution. All the other investigations are still under way and many witnesses are yet to be interviewed.

* * *

PENITENTIARIES

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS IN INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I am not so much concerned about the investigations involving the minister's department. I am talking about the chaotic situation in penitentiaries in which we find a great deal of unrest, overcrowding, suicide—

An hon. Member: From which prisoners escape.

Mr. Alexander:—and questionable administrative practices. I am talking about the institutions at Archambault, Millhaven, Drumheller, about the B.C. penitentiary, Dorchester and, last but not least, Prince Albert. Is the minister aware of the very serious conditions in those institutions? Will he look into the matter? If so, when can we expect action and a report from the minister?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, these are all penitentiaries with very dangerous people inside.

Mr. Paproski: You sound more like the Prime Minister every day.