

Inquiries of the Ministry

Andras) and the advisory councils at the national and regional level. In view of that statement could the Prime Minister inform the house whether, as the Minister without Portfolio indicated, he, the Minister without Portfolio, had not been consulted until last Monday on this fundamental reorganization of the department?

Mr. Trudeau: I would have to obtain this from the minister himself because my information, Mr. Speaker, is that there has been ample discussion between the minister and the Minister without Portfolio on this matter.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): As a supplementary question, can the Prime Minister say whether a two volume report on Indian poverty areas prepared by ARDA has been suppressed, and whether he will undertake to make this important report public?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Trudeau: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, questions relating to ARDA come under the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, and I will have to ask him to consider this.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): I will take the question as notice.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement made by the Minister without Portfolio, who has been assigned by the Prime Minister to Indian Affairs, to the effect that he had not been informed of the reorganization until last Monday; in view of his statement that he would have been happy to see it postponed but that he has asked for a full report on its depth and the rationale, and in view of the obvious confusion relating to responsibilities, will the Prime Minister undertake to make a statement to the house on motions which will delineate clearly to the house, to the country and to the Indian people the authority and responsibilities of these respective ministers with regard to Indian Affairs?

Mr. Trudeau: I can do this now. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development obviously is the minister responsible for everything coming under his department. He is being assisted in one special aspect of his duties by the Minister without Portfolio. The line of responsibility, however, is clearly through the minister with

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

portfolio. I understand the problems of hon. members with regard to this matter, and I assure them that I share them.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Does the Prime Minister consider the remarks of the Minister without Portfolio to be a cabinet leak?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH PRIME MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to make a statement to the house concerning his conversations a day or two ago with the Prime Minister of France?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I understand it is not customary to make a statement after such conversations, and I had not planned to do so.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of National Defence. Will the minister confirm whether Canada has asked for an extension until October 15 before announcing whether the government intends to participate in the European consortium for the design and development of a new general purpose fighter bomber, and will the minister say whether a decision has yet been reached by the cabinet on this subject?

Hon. Leo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Yes, we have requested an extension to October 15. No decision has yet been reached.

Mr. MacLean: Can the minister say whether the decision on this matter is related to the review of defence and foreign policy, and will he confirm whether this review has been completed at the official level and is now before the government for consideration?

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): There is a degree of relationship, but I think the decision can be taken even before the conclusion of the review of external affairs and defence. There is a certain relationship, but I do not