

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Would the minister also tell us if member countries have adopted a definite plan of action geared to monetary reform, or if they prefer to keep the dollar as a reserve currency?

[*English*]

**Mr. Sharp:** The whole subject of international monetary reform is under most active study at the present time. It was under the Group of Ten, and I believe the group will be enlarged to become a group of 20. Canada is one of the countries which hopes that these consultations will be successful.

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[*Translation*]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND PREMIER BOURASSA—ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS OPPOSING PROJECT**

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

It was announced recently that the minister would meet with the Quebec premier about the James Bay Indians' claims. We learned later that the meeting had been postponed. Could the hon. minister tell the House when he intends to meet the Quebec premier and what will be his main subject of discussion in supporting the interests of the James Bay Indians?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, last Monday I had the opportunity of conversing with Quebec Premier Bourassa. He told me that he had to postpone the meeting. I do not know whether the new meeting will take place Friday or next week. We were able to discuss over the phone his intention of having work begin immediately in the Grande-Rivière area only, which will indeed reduce the number of Indians who will be affected. I hope we will discuss that problem and the situation of the James Bay Indians at the next meeting that will take place on Friday or early next week.

• (1430)

**Mr. Asselin:** I should like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In the light of those conversations with the Quebec premier, is there anything indicating that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would not give his support to the Indian people who want to lodge an appeal before the court in that case?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no indication of that. I said that I would help Indians at any time because it is my duty to do so, but I am happy to see now that because the Quebec government has decided to start working projects solely in the Grande-Rivière region only one third of the Indians involved will be affected.

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary.

[Mr. Latulippe.]

[*English*]

**DISCUSSION OF TREATY RIGHTS BY MINISTER WITH NORTHWEST TERRITORIES NATIVES IN LIGHT OF MACKENZIE HIGHWAY PROJECT**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Is the minister negotiating with the Indian Brotherhood in the Northwest Territories regarding native rights, particularly in connection with the proposed highway, and has he made a specific proposal in cash terms, say something of the order of \$42 million?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity in January to meet with the representatives of the Northwest Territories Indian Brotherhood. We talked about that problem. I told them that the policy of this government was to see that treaties are respected and that if Indians wanted to choose their lands we intended to abide by the treaties. So far the Indians have not seen fit to proceed in this way. Like the Leader of the Opposition I saw the newspapers this morning but I have not yet received any official message from Mr. Wahshee.

[*English*]

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON—INQUIRY AS TO CASH OFFER TO SETTLE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS**

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary and is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has the minister made any offer to the brotherhood in the Yukon territory or in the Northwest Territories of a specific cash settlement for the extinguishment of aboriginal rights, including treaties 8 and 11?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC**

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary.

Could the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development give the House an assurance that his department will provide all possible co-operation to the province of Quebec to ensure the realization of the James Bay development project?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, my responsibility is to the Indians living in the James Bay area, and I have given them the assurance that I will do the utmost to help them benefit to the maximum from the development of the James Bay area, and this without their usual way of life being too much affected.