

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

warning those inside. However, sirens are not primarily aimed at those outside of buildings. They are aimed at the entire population. I think that is the only comment I can make.

**TRANSPORT****RICHELIEU WATERWAY—REQUEST FOR STUDY OF PROJECT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lucien Cardin (Richelieu-Vercheres):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In the light of the statement made recently by United States authorities to the effect that they intend to proceed with the Champlain-Richelieu cut-off without waiting for Canada, has the government decided upon a policy in this matter, and will it establish a board of engineers to survey the project and make a study of its economics?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I must first survey the statement before I can give any answer. I have not seen any reference to this matter by the United States.

**COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE****INQUIRY AS TO AGENDA—ENTRY OF U.K. INTO EUROPEAN MARKET**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Keays (Iles-de-la-Madeleine):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of his impending departure, will he indicate the nature of the discussions to be held at the forthcoming commonwealth conference?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Tomorrow my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce and I will be leaving to attend the annual meeting of the commonwealth economic consultative council. The meeting this year is to be held in Ghana. It is, I believe, the first time a meeting of commonwealth governments has ever been held on the continent of Africa, and will have some special significance on that account.

The agenda of the conference is not normally made public in advance, Mr. Speaker, but I think I may say that in the course of the meeting there will be an opportunity for reviewing economic developments and for considering economic and trade questions of interest to the commonwealth and indeed of aid matters within the commonwealth, perhaps with particular reference to the special commonwealth African aid program which was inaugurated a year ago at the last meeting of the commonwealth economic consultative council. While relationships between the United Kingdom and the common market no

doubt will be discussed, it is not considered that this particular meeting will provide the appropriate occasion for a detailed discussion in view of the fact that negotiations between the United Kingdom and the community are shortly to begin.

May I add, Mr. Speaker, that following the commonwealth meeting at Accra I shall be attending the annual meetings of the governors of the international bank, the international monetary fund, the international development agency and the international finance corporation, which are to be held this year in Vienna.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** May I ask the minister a question arising out of his answer. In view of the fact that he has just said that special consideration is not to be given at the Ghana meeting to the problems arising out of the United Kingdom application for admission to the European common market, could he inform the house whether there are commonwealth consultations going on in regard to this important matter, and how these consultations are being conducted?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** It will be recalled that on the last day of sitting of the house some of the ministers were engaged in a conference with Right Hon. Duncan Sandys, secretary of state for commonwealth relations in Her Majesty's government in the United Kingdom. He came to discuss with Canadian ministers the question as to whether the United Kingdom government should open negotiations with the community with a view to entering into the community as a member. I think the communique that was issued at the close of the meeting has been widely circulated. In any event, if it has not been already tabled I shall be glad to see that it is placed on the table of the house.

The views of the Canadian government were communicated to Mr. Sandys at that meeting. The house is aware that subsequently the government of the United Kingdom announced its intention of opening negotiations with a view to entry into the community, and that application was received by Dr. Erhard on behalf of the community, and arrangements are being made for the opening of negotiations as to the terms upon which the United Kingdom may enter the community as a member.

There have been discussions in relation to continuing communications on this subject. Hon. members will appreciate that this subject has now entered a different phase from that in which it was at the time of the meeting to which I have referred. There will be opportunity for continuing communication on this subject. I believe it has also been made known publicly that a meeting of officials of