

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. I ask, first, with whom has the Canadian commander lodged a complaint? Is it with the government of Cyprus, the government of Turkey or the government of Greece? Second, with regard to the reports that the Prime Minister of Canada is conferring with the Prime Minister of Great Britain, what initiatives are being proposed? Has the minister any information regarding this matter?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The protests were lodged with the Turkish-Cypriot leadership. With regard to the discussions the Prime Minister will have on this and other questions, the Prime Minister will make a report, of course, when he returns; but as my hon. friend will appreciate, the proposals that are now being discussed with the countries concerned respecting the Cyprus situation are in the stage of proposals and negotiations. Until we have had reactions from all concerned it would be inappropriate to go any further.

Mr. Douglas: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that press reports seem to indicate that a full scale military action is imminent, may I ask whether the minister on behalf of the Canadian government and the Secretary General on behalf of the United Nations have made it perfectly clear to both the Greek and Turkish governments that they will be held responsible for the safety and security of the Canadian and other United Nations forces in Cyprus?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, sir.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have two supplementary questions, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps they would be more appropriately directed to the Minister of National Defence. Has the Canadian government made arrangements to evacuate Canadian forces from Cyprus should this prove necessary? Second, do the Canadian forces serving in the United Nations command have authority to defend themselves with their side arms if they are attacked?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think I can answer these two questions in a general way by saying that the plans we have are co-ordinated with the United Nations and the command in Cyprus.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell us [Mr. Speaker.]

whether the Canadian forces serving in the U.N. command have instructions to defend themselves with side arms, if necessary, if they are attacked?

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): They are under the command of the general put there by the United Nations, and no doubt they would follow the instructions issued by the commander of the force.

Mr. Nesbitt: What are those instructions?

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the Canadian soldiers in Cyprus. I ask the Minister of National Defence, in what condition are the Canadians who were beaten with rifle butts? Are they in hospital? Were they seriously injured, or were these just minor injuries that they suffered?

[Translation]

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, my information is the same as that which my hon. friend read in the newspaper. I understand from this article that these people have not been seriously hurt.

[English]

Mr. Churchill: May I ask another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of National Defence not find out directly whether these men have been seriously injured?

[Translation]

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, we have looked into this matter and the report read by the hon. member is correct. They were not seriously hurt.

[English]

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us what are the instructions issued by the command of the U.N. forces to the Canadian troops with respect to their right to defend themselves?

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): These general instructions include the right of Canadian troops to defend themselves.

[Translation]

FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO U.K. SUPPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance? It is a most serious question.