

Inquiries of the Ministry

States and one put forward by the Soviet union. It may be that neither of those resolutions in its present form will, in its entirety, command wide support. It may be that the best course would be to work for a compromise arrangement. In any event we shall have to see what is the outcome of the present debate, and whether a compromise resolution which might set in motion some encouragement for negotiation directly between the parties or through the intervention of a third party, either under the auspices of the United Nations or otherwise, might be acceptable.

The position we took with regard to the main issue, namely the call for the withdrawal of the forces of Israel, was that such a withdrawal must be related to the other basic issues involved including, of course, the rights of Israel and the other parties, such rights as freedom of navigation, the solution of the refugee problem and issues of that sort. We would certainly hope there would be a relation between the request for a withdrawal and a recognition of these issues. It is too early at this time to say whether there will be this relationship between the request for withdrawal and a recognition of the issue I have mentioned.

In any event this is the objective the Canadian delegation has in mind, and I cannot see that as a result of the talks between the chairman of the council of ministers of the Soviet union, Mr. Kosygin, and the President of the United States any real progress in this regard has been made. Certainly nothing which was said by the President, nothing which was said by Mr. Kosygin in his press conference last night, indicates that either of these two countries has changed the position which it formally stated before the general assembly. Nevertheless I am sure I express the views of everyone in this house when I say we were gratified that the heads of the governments of the two most powerful countries in the world did have ten hours of discussion.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that the Soviet union and some other nations have made vehement demands for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, will the Canadian government oppose any move on the part of the United Nations to order a withdrawal of Israeli forces unless it is accompanied by the kind of ironclad guarantees to which the minister himself has just referred?

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Canadian position is that while we cannot support the seizure of territory by force, withdrawal by the forces of Israel must be linked with the negotiation of arrangements which take into account the basic rights and interests of the parties concerned; and in this instance, of course, Israel is very much included.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I asked the right hon. Prime Minister whether the government was contemplating any special or additional contribution to UNRWA to deal with the immediate needs of the refugees, and the right hon. gentleman said he would rather leave the matter until today when the details would be known. Could the house be informed of them now?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows an announcement was made in the house last week that deliveries under the \$2½ million which had been made available in earlier appropriations for food and relief to the Middle East area would be speeded up, and that in addition there would be a special contribution for emergency medical supplies through the Red Cross.

It was difficult last week and before that to obtain from the International Red Cross and the United Nations authorities the exact nature of their requirements to meet the immediate emergency but we did finally get, and I think I indicated this last Friday, a good deal of information. As a result of an examination of this information concerning the needs and the emergency requirements, the government has decided to make available an additional \$1 million worth of food aid to the United Nations relief and works agency. That doubles the food aid to UNRWA, which was \$1 million in the earlier appropriation. It was also decided to meet the cost of the transportation of this additional food aid to the area concerned, a cost which had previously been borne by other United Nations members of the organization.

These transport costs will come to between \$125,000 and \$225,000. It was also decided to make available an extra \$80,000 to the Canadian Red Cross for emergency supplies, largely medical supplies. This represents an additional \$1,200,000 or \$1,300,000 worth of aid to meet the requirements of relief and rehabilitation with which we now find ourselves faced in the Middle East as a result of the conflict.