

The first statement deals with personnel of our delegation to the United Nations Assembly.

External Affairs Committee

June 6, 1955.

On Friday, June 3, 1955, Mr. Herridge asked Mr. Leger the following: 'Who recommends the people sent as parliamentary observers to the United Nations?' Mr. Leger replied that that was a question for the minister's office.

As Mr. Pearson pointed out on June 6 in the House in reply to a question placed on the order paper by Mr. Gagnon, the parliamentary observers are nominated by their party leaders and are appointed by the government to give members of all parties represented in the House of Commons opportunities to obtain first-hand information of the problems and activities of the United Nations. Customarily the government invites nominations of four Liberal members as observers, two attending each half of the session of the assembly; two Progressive Conservative members, one attending each half of the session; one C.C.F. member to attend half the session and one Social Credit member to attend the other half.

The second statement concerns the eventual Canadian representation in Indo-China.

A question was asked about the intentions of the government with regard to Canadian representation in Indochina after the International Supervisory Commissions have completed their work. Much will depend on the circumstances that prevail in Vietman, Laos and Cambodia at the time the international commissions are withdrawn. These will have to be examined carefully with a view to deciding whether Canadian interests would be served by establishing diplomatic or consular representation in one or more of the three countries. There is no present intention to establish such representation. Developments in the Indochinese peninsula over the next year or two are difficult to predict and it will be necessary to leave this decision for the future.

The third statement deals with Canadian representation in Israel.

During a discussion in the committee, it was noted that the Canadian ambassador to Israel is also accredited as Ambassador to Greece and resides in Greece, paying visits to Israel as required, and that there is a resident charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv. A member of the committee enquired whether it is intended to appoint a separate Ambassador to Israel.

In due course this step should be taken. However, in view of the expansion of the department, which was discussed by the committee, it is not easy to provide suitably experienced people as heads of diplomatic missions. It is expected that double accreditation will continue for some time—in this as in other cases—and certainly during the course of the present fiscal year.

The other two statements are factual figures submitted by the deputy minister so I think it is quite all right for you to allow me to have them printed in the record.