

Inquiries of the Ministry

NIGERIA-BIAFRA—USE OF CANAIRELIEF SERVICES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in relation to his statement on motions which he can answer now or answer tonight when we are having the debate. It might give the House some information that would be useful in that discussion. The minister has mentioned the fact that the Red Cross will be used and that there may be an air drop to supply relief to the people of Nigeria. He has made no mention of utilizing the services of Canairelif which is associated with the Joint Church Aid Program. I want to ask him whether it is the government's intention to use that organization, and will the \$1 million which was to be appropriated to assist them in this task be available to that organization?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this morning when we received the news that the Biafran resistance had collapsed I was in touch with both General Wrinch of the Canadian Red Cross and Dr. Johnson of Canairelif to discuss the resulting situation. I informed General Wrinch, of course, about our desire to use the Red Cross as the acknowledged international authority as far as possible. I spoke to Dr. Johnson who told me that Canairelif had supplies on the island of Sao Tome and was ready to co-operate. He wanted me to convey this to the government in Lagos. I asked him in return, if Canairelif was not acceptable to the Nigerian authorities, whether the available supplies would be available to any other organization. He answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Have any direct representations been made to the government of Nigeria in Lagos in respect of allowing Canairelif to fly into Uli and has any favourable reply been received?

Mr. Sharp: Our High Commissioner has, of course, quite recently been in touch with the government in Lagos about the operation of Canairelif. Needless to say, because Canairelif operated night flights contrary to the wishes of the Nigerian government its position is not as strong in that regard as it would otherwise be. However, I do accept the statement of Dr. Johnson that they would wish to

[Mr. Baldwin.]

co-operate with whatever agency is in control, and I hope the supplies can be moved quickly into position.

[Translation]

NIGERIA-BIAFRA—DETERMINATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONFLICT

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Since the nations which supply the belligerents with arms as well as armament makers are among those mainly responsible for the situation in Nigeria and Biafra, does the minister intend to propose, at the next session of the United Nations, that a study be made on the position of those countries and on the military assistance they have granted to Nigeria and to Biafra, with a view to determining who is actually responsible for this war, and preventing further military disorders of this type?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the cause of the war did not lie particularly with those who, contrary to our wishes, supplied arms. It lay, of course, in the internal situation in Nigeria.

MANITOBA CENTENNIAL

SUBSTITUTE FOR CANCELLED WORLD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, since the Biafran situation is to be debated this evening might I change the subject by asking a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the world hockey tournament has been cancelled and because the hockey series was an important item in connection with Manitoba's centennial celebration, what alternative is the government considering in order to compensate Winnipeg for the expense already incurred?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The CAHA and Hockey Canada, on which body the government of Canada is represented, are now working out some other suitable arrangements whereby we can have, we hope, a very interesting, hockey tournament of very high calibre in Winnipeg during the centennial. We think it