

Mr. GREEN: We have accredited our ambassador in the Lebanon to Iraq. The situation in the middle east is always quite close to being very serious.

Mr. CRESTOHL: Would the minister mind speaking a little louder?

Mr. GREEN: The situation in the Middle East is always potentially very serious though, at the moment, the tension seems to have diminished somewhat. We have had very friendly discussions with Iraq and with Jordan; in fact, with all the countries in that area. You might be interested to know that Miss Margaret Meagher, our ambassador to Israel, is being accredited to Cyprus as the first Canadian high commissioner there.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Are we reciprocating? Are we accredited a Cyprian ambassador to Canada?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. I think that probably the permanent representative to the United Nations will be accredited.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Is Miss Meagher the only external affairs officer who is an ambassador and a high commissioner at the same time?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): We now have missions in Lebanon, in the United Arab Republic and in Iraq.

Mr. GREEN: I was wrong in my last answer. The high commissioner in Malaya is also ambassador to Burma.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): We now have three missions in Iraq, the United Arab Republic and the Lebanon.

Mr. GREEN: And in Iran, Turkey, Israel, and Cyprus.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Of course, Israel.

Mr. GREEN: And shortly in the Sudan. We are accrediting our ambassador in Cairo to Khartoum as well.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Mr. Ben-Gurion, the Prime Minister of Israel, several times since January has expressed the view that he is ready at any time, without any conditions, to sit down and discuss Israeli United Arab Republic relations. Does the minister feel there is anything Canada can do to bring such a meeting about, in accordance with the wishes of the Prime Minister of Israel, towards the alleviation of the problem between the two countries?

Mr. GREEN: We are continually doing everything we possibly can to get the difficulties in the Middle East settled. As you know, Canada has played a very active part there with troops in the United Nations emergency force and with representatives on the truce boundary commission. This is a very difficult problem.

Mr. HELLYER: Has there been any real progress made recently in respect to refugees?

Mr. GREEN: One very prominent feature has been the establishment of technical schools for the training of the young people in the refugee camps. That has been done under the high commissioner for refugees. He took the money which we donated and used it for the construction of two schools of that kind, and that sort of movement is about the most hopeful change that has taken place.

Mr. HELLYER: What do they do after they get the technical training?

Mr. GREEN: They have been getting employment in the countries in which they are refugees.

Mr. HELLYER: Then there are opportunities for them to leave the camps?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. The problem is not with the trained people, it is with the untrained.