

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: The idea of a deadline is an interesting one, though I am not sure it could operate as the hon. member suggests. If the Red Cross were to report that it was unable to carry out this operation within a specific number of days it might be reasonable to suggest that our aircraft should proceed to other areas, including Canada, where they might be more useful. If on the other hand the Red Cross is doing its best, and we have no reason to believe that any other organization could do better, there does not seem much reason why a deadline should operate in an attempt to force the Red Cross to do more than its best. We must assume they are doing all they can to solve this problem.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Can the right hon. gentleman advise the house why these Canadian Hercules airplanes were allowed to leave Canada before clearance had been arranged?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of National Defence another question.

I wish to refer again to the beer aboard the Hercules. The minister told us earlier that there were only 3,600 bottles of beer meant for 71 people working in a spot where there is no drinking water. Would it not have been as easy to send them drinking water, which would have been better for their health than beer that might help them to become intoxicated while over there?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that question was asked, because it gives me the opportunity to clear up a point I should have mentioned earlier. The beer sent there was bought with private and not public funds, and I think that is a very important distinction.

Now, as to providing water instead of beer, we have tried to do for the best and we have also sent soft drinks.

[*English*]

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to pursue the analogy given by the Prime Minister, but I would like to ask him whether the United States at any time brought the question of the Vietnamese war before the United Nations prior to sending in armed forces. Did it in fact call for a cease fire before the United Nations?

[*Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).*]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Prime Minister is as a result of what he has said this afternoon. Does he agree that the theory of peace restoring as advocated by the Minister of Transport, formerly the minister of national defence, is no longer tenable?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MIDDLE EAST—CANADIAN EFFORTS TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Is the government presently making an intervention in order to bring about a settlement of the basic Near East problems between Israel and the Arab states, with particular reference to the lingering Arab refugee problem and the question of disputed boundaries? I ask this question in view of the recent visit to Canada by the foreign minister of the United Arab Republic and the present visit by the foreign minister of Israel.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is correct that members of the government, including myself, have been meeting with the foreign ministers of these two countries. We are doing everything we can to ensure that there will be a continuation of the Jarring mission at the United Nations in the hope that a solution will be found to these problems.

APPLICATION OF 12 MILE FISHERIES LIMIT TO ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs but in his absence I will direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the announcement that a major territorial battle is shaping up between Canadian vessels and French trawlers operating out of France's territorial islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, will the Prime Minister indicate what action his government is contemplating to resolve this jurisdictional dispute over fishery limits?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will consult his roster he will find that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is due to be here tomorrow.