

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Commonwealth. Could the minister tell us whether any such move is afoot within the membership of the Commonwealth?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I would want to read the statement and see the full context before making any comment.

CANADIAN COMMITMENT WITH RESPECT
TO FOREIGN AID

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I, too, have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to ask the minister whether he committed Canada financially with regard to foreign aid, in his press conference yesterday; and if so, to what extent?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada has for many years been committed to the principle of foreign aid. I indicated yesterday there would be an increase in the amounts available for assistance to other countries—

Mr. Winkler: To what extent?

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—between now and 1970. I expressed the hope that by 1970 we would have reached the UNCTAD figure of 1 per cent of gross national product, taking into account the fact that Canada is a net importer of capital.

Mr. Winkler: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I agree with that principle, but I should like to know approximately what it will cost in dollars and cents. What amount is involved here?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The present allocation is over \$300 million.

Mr. Winkler: I wish to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of that figure, and supporting the principle enunciated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs but believing that charity begins at home, would the Prime Minister not be willing now to support legislation increasing the old age pension to \$100 a month at once?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I hope that legislation will be before the house very shortly on that matter.

[Mr. Johnston.]

UNITED NATIONS

CYPRUS—CONTINUATION OF PEACE
KEEPING OPERATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, in anticipation that the minister might be a little more forthcoming today might I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask whether in his recent conversations with Mr. Aiken, the foreign minister for Eire, he discussed the status and composition of the peace keeping forces in Cyprus and the problem of financing the continuing presence of those troops in that area.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we did discuss the financial difficulties of peace keeping operations under the United Nations. There is a resolution in the name of Ireland now being discussed at the United Nations. We have not agreed with the full implications of this draft resolution and are now discussing ways and means of possibly reaching some agreement.

Mr. Lambert: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Just what are the views of the Canadian government in this regard at this time?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Our views with regard to peace keeping are that there is an obligation on all members of the organization to contribute to the financing of these operations. I regret to say, however, that this is not a view that is widely shared at the present time. We are now considering ways and means of trying to find, if we cannot use the Irish resolution, a proposal of our own to achieve a wider measure of support.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I bring this matter, which is not provocative, to the attention of the Prime Minister. It has to do with the frightful massacre on our highways and the damage and injuries that follow, which has brought about a situation whereby 10 per cent of the hospital beds in Canada are occupied by traffic victims, one third of these people may become burdens upon society, and 50 per cent of our paraplegics have become so through traffic accidents.