

Inquiries of the Ministry

hundreds of Greek Cypriots in the 19 year old class for the purpose of organizing a permanent army. This has been done over the protests of both the British and Turkish governments, as well as the Turkish Cypriots.

I want to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether any representations are being made by the Canadian government to the government of Cyprus, directly or through the United Nations, pointing out that this will have a serious effect upon the successful operation of the peace keeping force in Cyprus.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): This matter has been discussed by the United Nations and also by the Canadian high commissioner in Cyprus. However, it is not yet clear whether the act to which the hon. gentleman draws our attention will have the consequences and the implications he suggests. Some officials in the United Nations have taken the temporary view that this may be a step in the right direction. However, this remains to be seen.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): In view of the question asked by the leader of the New Democratic party and a number of disturbing reports recently over the C.B.C. and in the press concerning Cyprus, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs at an early date, perhaps this week or the beginning of next week, make an extensive statement on motions bringing members of the house up to date on the situation in Cyprus?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The hon. member for Annapolis-Kings mentioned this very matter to me today, and he had intended asking me a question along those lines. I told him, as I will tell the hon. gentleman, that the suggestion will be carefully considered.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask the secretary of state if he is now telling the house that increasing the Greek Cypriot army despite the protests of the Turkish Cypriots and the British and Turkish governments may be the right course for the Cypriot government to follow?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I did not say what my view was. I said the view was put forward by United Nations officials that this might be an effective way of assisting to provide for control over certain elements in one of the communities, a control which is not now in existence. That is what I said. We are now examining the position to see whether this represents the view of other contingents in the

United Nations force. It was not the view stated by the government of Canada.

Mr. Douglas: To which elements of the population did the hon. gentleman refer?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I was referring to elements in the Greek community.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Since it is rumoured that Canada will renew its participation to the United Nations force in Cyprus, which will entail a supplementary expenditure of about \$2 million, would the minister consider suggesting to the United Nations that this huge amount be distributed so as to help the economic conditions of the Cypriots instead of imposing this force upon them, because I believe this would pave the way for an agreement between the two communities in Cyprus?

Has the minister any comments to make on that subject?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, before the United Nations force was set up the Canadian government had made the same suggestion as advanced by the hon. member; unfortunately, it was a long range proposal and it was not considered acceptable in February.

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Macaluso: My question has already been asked by the hon. member for Three Rivers.

POLAND—REPORTS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Joseph P. O'Keefe (St. John's East): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the present intense interest in symbols, in tolerance and in freedom, would the minister check the accuracy of yesterday's report on religious intolerance in Poland where over 2 million children are affected or involved, as contained in yesterday's edition of the *Globe and Mail*, page 3.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the hon. member would like to put this question on the order paper.