

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

serious allegations made by a most experienced medical man, Dr. Hall, can the Acting Prime Minister assure the house and the country that he and the officials of his department are taking advantage of Dr. Hall's knowledge in an effort to find out how they can improve the situation in this area and whether they are making every effort to correct the serious abuses which Dr. Hall pointed out?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it is a well known rule of the house, of course, that it is not open to hon. members to comment on what is transpiring in a committee of this house. My hon. friend is a member of the committee and was present this morning. He put some questions himself—

**Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** May we have order, please. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that a perfectly legitimate question, not a comment, was asked of the minister of external affairs as to whether he would take advantage of and profit by the experience of a certain noted individual who is an expert on this matter. All we are getting from the minister is a repudiation of this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a point of order. The hon. member is being argumentative. The minister expressed an opinion about the rules of the house. I do not think this should be the basis for a point of order raised by the hon. member at this time.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to assure my hon. friend, for whom I have the greatest esteem, that the assurance he is seeking from me was very ably given this morning by the external aid director, Mr. Strong, supplemented by me.

**Mr. Starr:** What did you supplement?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to simply say to my hon. friends opposite, in the kindest way, that the impression of urbanity and civility of the new Tory leadership does not jibe with the noisy and carefree attitude of some hon. members of the official opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that the minister postpone the answer to the question asked by the hon. member.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. While we recognize that any minister may decide not to answer a question, I do not think he should couple a refusal to answer with the suggestion that an hon. member is out of order. The committee had before it a document, namely the report of the Secretary of State for External Affairs on foreign policy. If this interpretation by the minister were carried through there would be no question on any aspect of foreign policy which would be allowable in this house.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CYPRUS—POSSIBLE RETURN OF  
CANADIAN TROOPS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, having so successfully dealt with that matter in a friendly way I should like to deal with another question asked by the hon. member for Chapeau.

[*Translation*]

Now, I want to answer the question which was put to me the other day by the hon. member for Chapeau which I had promised to answer right away.

The hon. member for Chapeau asked me on October 26 whether, in my opinion, the situation in Cyprus was such that we could expect our troops to return at the end of the year, when the present commitment expires.

Although the situation in Cyprus has slightly improved during the last months, no progress has been made towards a political solution and serious tension still remains on the island. Therefore, I shall expect a continuing need for the peace-keeping force when, on December 26, of this year, the present commitment comes to an end.

However, I must say to the hon. member that a final decision on this matter will have to wait until the next report of the UN secretary general is filed with the security council on Cyprus.

[*English*]

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question in respect of the answer the minister gave having regard to the situation in Cyprus. May I ask the minister what steps are being taken by the government of Canada to effect a political settlement in Cyprus.