

Inquiries of the Ministry

him if it is a fact that the U.A.R. has severed diplomatic relations with the United States and, second, that Iraq, Kuwait and Algeria have decided to cut off oil deliveries to the United States and Britain because of their alleged support of Israel, and that there is speculation that Saudi Arabia and Libya may join such a boycott.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is the report that I have seen. It has not been received officially from any of our embassies, but I believe this happens to be the case.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. While we all hope that a cease fire can be effected, and the terms of such an agreement are extremely important for the future peace and stability of the Middle East and indeed of the whole world, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if we can have assurance that the Canadian representative on the security council will urge that the terms of any cease fire include some provision for guaranteed access to the gulf of Aqaba by Israel, and a program for dealing with the problem of the Arab refugees.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, of course the question of most immediate importance is to stop the fighting. The resolution in question should do that. Discussions have been going on during most of the night, as a matter of fact, concerning the terms of what would appear to be such a simple resolution. While I do agree that this is the immediate objective, there should also be an arrangement made, if possible, in connection with this crisis so that a cease fire would not mean merely a return to the situation which existed before the cease fire. Whether it is possible to do that in a resolution which concerns also a cease fire or in a separate and subsequent resolution is one of the questions now being considered. In any event a cease fire will not be effective, except as a cease fire, if it means further action will be necessary through diplomatic or other channels to fight out the problem of access to the gulf of Aqaba. So this is a most complicated question. There is the necessity of stopping the fighting at once, and at the same time of doing more than stopping the fighting, to ensure that it will not recur.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand from the Prime Minister's remarks that the Canadian representative will be taking the

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

position that any resolution calling for a cessation of hostilities will not require that Israel, for instance, withdraw from Sharm el Sheik in the event that Israel holds a position which guarantees access to the strait of Tiran?

Mr. Pearson: The terms of the resolution are being discussed not only by our representative but at this very moment I believe by the representatives of the U.S.S.R., the U.K., France and the United States of America. If it is possible for all members of the security council to agree on a resolution, including the four permanent members I have mentioned, I think it would be a happy result.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, does the Prime Minister not think it is desirable to be realistic as well as idealistic? Does he not believe that start lines are equally important in the question of a cease fire? In other words is it meant what was the position at that time of what took place last Sunday or a fortnight ago? Surely it is quite unrealistic merely to ask the belligerents to put down arms where they stand in the event that there are actually Arab incursions into Israel or Israeli incursions into Egypt.

Mr. Pearson: I think the representatives of the governments I mentioned, the U.S.S.R., the U.K., the United States of America, France and Canada, as well as others who are discussing this matter, are trying to do it in very realistic terms.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is practically a supplementary one to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Supposing the security council adopts, later on today, a resolution on the ceasefire in Israel and the United Arab Republic, what guarantee do we have that the belligerent countries will in fact cease fire, if the security council does adopt such a resolution?

Is the situation not so complicated that one does not know exactly what is going on, and what will be the attitude of the government in that eventuality, that is if the adopted resolution is not respected by the belligerents?

[English]

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker; this is a hypothetical situation in respect of which I hope I will not be asked to give a final opinion. I would point out, however, that if a