

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: To which statement do you refer?

Mr. FLEMING: First of all, to Mr. Dulles' statement in which he draws attention to the fact that the Chinese forces are actually participating in the fighting in Indo-China, and that anti-aircraft forces are involved, and as to Sir Winston—

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I remember. Well, in so far as Mr. Dulles' statement is concerned I understand it was made before Congress, before a congressional committee just as I am appearing before a parliamentary committee; and his statement I think was in answer to a question. I think I am right in saying that. Therefore we were not consulted in regard to the answers he made to any particular questions. But Mr. Dulles has in recent weeks given us a very clear indication—he has given to me personally, and other members of the state department have followed it up with our embassy—of his views in regard to the dangers of the situation in Indo-China, especially if that situation should deteriorate to a point where Chinese interventions became open and powerful. He was emphasizing this to congress. We were aware of his views on this matter although we certainly were not aware of any particular language he was going to use.

Mr. FLEMING: Perhaps I could put it this way, Mr. Pearson: had the Canadian government been acquainted at an earlier date than yesterday with the facts Mr. Dulles expressed yesterday as to participation of armed Chinese forces in the fighting in Indo-China?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I do not know about these particular facts, but I would like to inquire. It may well be that our military people in Washington or our embassy people in Washington were given details of the information. I have no knowledge of these facts and figures myself although I did know, of course, that Chinese communist activity in Indo-Chino had been stepped up, and more help was going forward to Viet Minh forces.

Mr. FLEMING: What type of activity do you refer to?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: The type referred to by Mr. Dulles in his speech.

Mr. FLEMING: That is, actual participation in fighting—in this case their anti-aircraft forces?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I had no knowledge of any details of their intervention, but I did know as a matter of fact it was a source of fairly general knowledge that they had been giving greater assistance in one form or another to the Viet Minh people. I can find out if we were given advance information of these particular facts.

Mr. FLEMING: On the other hand, we have been all aware for some time the communist rebels were drawing materiel and drawing assistance from the forces of China. It is quite another matter though to have Chinese armed forces actually participating in the fighting—not simply training communist troops, but actually participating in the fighting there—and I would like to know, Mr. Pearson, if the Canadian government or its officers have had that information previously?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: We will find that out.

Mr. FLEMING: I have another question.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it in connection with the same thing?

Mr. FLEMING: Yes. What is your normal source of factual information about what is going on in Indo-China?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Our source of information is varied. We get information from United States sources through our contacts in the state department and through our contacts in the Pentagon. We get a great deal of information on Indo-Chinese matters from the French government through our embassy