

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas: The minister says "the governments concerned". Does he mean Greece, Turkey and Cyprus?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The government of Greece and the government of Turkey. A representative of the United Kingdom, as one of the co-guarantors is present. The United States on the authority of the president has a former secretary of state there in the person of Mr. Dean Acheson for purposes which the government of the United States believes may be desirable. Both Greece and Turkey are members of the NATO alliance and, as Mr. Rusk said a short time ago, war between these two countries is unthinkable, unthinkable for Cyprus itself, unthinkable for NATO.

At the instance of Canada, and pursuant to information which we believe was as reliable as it could be, there have been discussions in the NATO council. The intervention of NATO is not designed in any way to interfere in the work of the United Nations. The function of mediation has been extended to the mediator under the security council resolution, and no effort is being made by NATO in any way to interfere with a responsibility that belongs to the United Nations. However, NATO has an interest, a responsibility and I believe an obligation to see to it that none of its members takes any course that adds to the difficult and complicated task that has been imposed on the United Nations.

In addition, there have been meetings between Canada and a number of other countries with regard to this matter.

AGRICULTURE**SASKATCHEWAN—STEPS TO MEET CRITICAL LIVESTOCK SITUATION**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if he will now advise the house what request has been received from the government of Saskatchewan relative to the supply of fodder or the transfer of livestock to pasture? What has been the position taken by the government of Saskatchewan on this matter and what is the minister going to do about it in view of the continuing drought situation?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting the Saskatchewan minister of agriculture tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. The government of Saskatchewan have indicated what they would like to do, and we will be discussing

that with them tomorrow. I will be glad to announce the policy on Monday.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am not asking about the meeting tomorrow. What is the suggestion from the minister in Saskatchewan? Is he asking for the same kind of terms as were given under my administration, namely 50 per cent?

Mr. Hays: I will be glad to make this announcement on Monday. I do not care to say until I have seen the minister, which will be tomorrow morning.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What kind of brush-off is this? Did the minister receive a letter from the government of the province of Saskatchewan or the minister of agriculture asking for assistance? What was asked for? This kind of brush-off just will not work.

Mr. Hays: I received a letter. I have been in communication with the government of Saskatchewan and also the government of Manitoba. I am going to see these representatives tomorrow, and I am quite prepared to give out the information on Monday morning.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That type of answer may have been all right in Calgary, but this is the House of Commons. I ask if the minister got a letter from the government of Saskatchewan setting out the terms—he is getting advice from two ministers. If the Minister of National Health and Welfare would look after her own department she would be a lot better off. I ask him if he received a letter setting out the terms the Saskatchewan government has requested. If he refuses to answer or he takes instructions from the Minister of National Health and Welfare he will be in a lot of difficulty because she made the pension plan a real mess.

Mr. Hays: I did receive a letter, and I will be glad to discuss it tomorrow morning with the minister of agriculture. I will be making an announcement on Monday.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I simply rise to say that this is another example of the arrogance of this government in refusing to answer questions.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I ask a supplementary question? Can the minister tell us when this letter was received from the government of Saskatchewan regarding fodder supplies for the drought area?

Mr. Hays: I cannot tell you exactly, but I will be glad to find out.