

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton),
 The Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan),
 The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness)
 The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mrs. Fairclough),
 The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. MacLean),
 The Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) (for morning meeting only)
 The Postmaster General (Mr. William Hamilton),
 The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Browne),
 The Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Comtois),
 The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Monteith),
 The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Alvin Hamilton),
 The Minister of Defence Production (Mr. O'Hurley),
 The Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sévigny).
 The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Bryce),
 The Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Fournier),
 The Registrar of the Cabinet (Mr. Halliday).

FORCES FOR THE CONGO
 (Previous reference July 28)

1. *The Prime Minister* referred to a draft announcement which had been prepared in connection with the sending of Canadian forces to the Congo.

He raised the question of whether the consent of Parliament should be obtained. Parliament should be given an opportunity to express itself on this important matter, either by resolution or approval of an appropriation. Should the Government not authorize the necessary force by Order in Council?

2. *The Minister of National Defence* referred to the question of supplies for the Canadian personnel sent. Should the personnel be deployed outside of Leopoldville, there would be no method of supplying them unless the present restriction that the R.C.A.F. was not to carry any supplies or equipment elsewhere in the Congo than Leopoldville was lifted. He had made enquiries in this connection and found out that the best aircraft available for supplying detachments would be the Caribou aircraft developed in Canada for army operations. He thought four aircraft would be desirable. At the moment, there were two demonstrators, which could be made immediately available. A third one could be ready in September and the fourth in October. It was evident, of course, that this would stimulate the aircraft industry in the Toronto region. The total approximate cost would be about \$2.8 million. These aircraft, of course, could be used by National Defence once the operations in the Congo were terminated.

3. *During the discussion* the following points were raised:

(a) Some felt that, in view of the fact that the operation contemplated was on a small scale, it would not be wise to give it too much attention. The public had been prepared already by the press and probably thought that the forces were already on their way. The best procedure seemed to be to supplement the items in the National Defence estimates by one providing that the funds already included could be used to meet the costs of the military personnel in the Congo.

(b) On the other hand, most thought that a formal resolution enabling all parties to indicate their stand by means of a vote on this issue would be preferable in the circumstances. The conditions under which the force would have to operate in the Congo would be entirely different to those in Egypt. Climatic conditions, the possibility of diseases, etc., added to the unrest in the population, could result in serious casualties among the forces. It was most unlikely that the Opposition would oppose the sending of the force. On the contrary, they might say that the force was too limited in number.