

[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Béchar (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, motion for papers No. 31 is acceptable to the government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[English]

CONTRACT SIGNED BY FARM WORKERS FROM CARIBBEAN

Motion No. 31—**Mr. Orlikow**:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of the contract form signed by the Caribbean workers brought to Canada for employment in agriculture.

Motion agreed to.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CYPRUS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRESENT POSITION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the very disturbing reports from Cyprus in recent hours can the minister give the house any indication of conditions there, and indicate what initiatives his government might be taking in order to forestall further deterioration of the situation?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows some of the Canadian participants in the United Nations force did run into some trouble with one group of the Cypriot population. The commander of the United Nations force and the commander of the Canadian contingent of that force have registered protests, as has the government itself.

With regard to the efforts being made to resolve the problem which, as I told the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre yesterday is one that has been causing concern, the Canadian government has taken an initiative with two other countries. This initiative is now the subject of discussion with the governments of Turkey and Greece. I saw the ambassadors of Turkey and Greece last evening. Our ambassador in Athens has had discussions with the minister of foreign affairs for Greece within the past 24 hours. Likewise, our ambassador in Ankara has had some conversations with the foreign minister

Inquiries of the Ministry

for Turkey, and I myself have also been in touch with the latter. Our ambassador at the United Nations has been instructed to discuss this matter with the Secretary General, and the steps we have undertaken, if acceptable, I think will greatly contribute to the stabilization of the situation.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, is consideration being given to the position of the Canadian contingent in relation to measures to be taken to afford some protection for that contingent in the event the situation there should further deteriorate, creating further danger?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): As my hon. friend will be aware, once the Canadian government and the parliament of Canada approve Canadian participation in a United Nations force, the command and the course to be followed by that force is determined by the commander of the United Nations force, on instructions from the Secretary General and the security council. This will be the procedure observed in this case as it has been in other circumstances.

As my colleague the Minister of National Defence pointed out the other day, contingent plans in this situation have been made. I would not want this last reply, however, to indicate that I do not believe an improvement has not resulted from the efforts that have been made within the past 48 hours. I think the situation has improved.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): A supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did the minister receive information directly two days ago from the United Nations authorities or from the Canadian commander in Cyprus that three Canadians were beaten up and held by the Cypriots, or did he derive his information today from the *Globe and Mail* as we did?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I learned of that from our high commissioner in Nicosia.

Mr. Churchill: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Acting Prime Minister, would it not have been better to inform the house yesterday with regard to the peril in which our Canadian soldiers are in Cyprus rather than leaving it in mid-air, when the minister had the information?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is argumentative.