

*External Aid*

settlement short of complete independence from Nigeria. To advocate a negotiated settlement and secession is a contradiction in terms. I would therefore urge those Canadians who have influence with the rebel side—

**An hon. Member:** Who are they?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The churches.

**Mr. Sharp:**—both in this house and outside, to press them toward conciliation, and thus toward a peaceful settlement. And I call on the parties to this tragic civil war to show their willingness to negotiate positively, in order that with the assistance of the O.A.U. or the Commonwealth Secretariat, a peaceful settlement can be achieved.

In conclusion may I restate the basic principles which have guided the Canadian government's policy in this matter and which will continue to guide that policy:

1. The government will continue to provide assistance generously to meet the needs of the people of Nigeria as a whole;

2. We will maintain close liaison with the legitimate government of Nigeria in order to provide relief to the population under its control;

3. We will continue to urge the secessionist authorities to co-operate in arrangements acceptable to the Nigerian government for the relief of the population under rebel control;

4. The government will be ready, when this tragic conflict is over, to co-operate with the Nigerian government in the important tasks of reconstruction and rehabilitation it will face;

5. We will work toward a better international legal framework within which humanitarian assistance can be provided to people affected by civil conflict;

6. The government will not violate international law by supporting or endorsing any move, bilateral or multilateral, which will constitute intervention in Nigerian internal affairs;

7. We will continue to call upon both sides in the conflict to negotiate their differences;

8. The government will vigorously support any conciliation effort which may develop under the auspices of the O.A.U., the Commonwealth Secretariat or any other body acceptable to the parties;

9. We will stand ready to assist, if so desired by both parties, in promoting a negotiated settlement.

**Mr. Stanfield:** The minister indicated he would answer questions when he had finished. I wonder whether he would indicate what he meant when he said this government would establish a better international framework to deal with civil conflicts, and whether he would indicate when he proposes to start on this, if not tomorrow?

**Mr. Sharp:** This has already been started. The words I used were: "We will work toward a better international legal framework within which humanitarian assistance can be provided to peoples affected by civil conflict." That is what we are doing in the United Nations today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** In connection with the minister's remarks about the observer team, I was wondering whether the suggestion had been explored that the team should be expanded, as Nigeria has requested, and that it should use its own vehicles, with the possibility of seeing all the areas presently involved in the conflict. The minister did not say whether inquiries had been made in this direction.

**Mr. Sharp:** The hon. member may recall that when the team itself suggested that its operations should be expanded I supported that idea in a cable to the authorities in Lagos.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Would the minister answer the other part of the question with regard to the vehicles and the expansion of the team?

**Mr. Sharp:** We made it clear we would be prepared to help in that respect.

**Mr. Brewin:** Has the minister made inquiries into the question of whether the airport at Calabar, in eastern Nigeria, a region presently occupied by the federal forces, is not perfectly capable of accepting Hercules aircraft on frequent and repeated flights? It is one of the major international airports there.

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Before I came to the house today I asked the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) if he would give me an account of the position there, and I shall read the relevant sentence:

Beginning 17 October, the Canadian reconnaissance team was permitted a survey of Calabar and Enugu airfields in Nigeria. Calabar was found to be acceptable by the Canadian team for limited