

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a further question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of the fact that he announced that there was a rotation among the Canadian troops, does he intend to suggest to the United Nations that Canadian troops rotate with troops of other member countries, because, according to *Maclean's* French edition, the most thankless tasks were assigned to the Canadian troops, while the British, Finnish and other troops were there almost as tourists?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the answer might be in the affirmative, but I would like to examine anew the terms of the question which the hon. member just asked me.

[Text]

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** A supplementary question. I wonder whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs could advise the house whether the problem of financing the peace keeping operations in Cyprus has been solved, and whether the Soviet union has indicated its intention to make any contribution in this matter.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, the Soviet union has not indicated its intention to make any contribution. The governments of the United Kingdom and the United States are making sizeable, and the largest, contributions to the voluntary fund. Canada, as I indicated a moment ago, along with Ireland, is continuing to pay the costs of our contributions to the operation. The secretary general, however, was forced to announce—I regret that he had to do so, but it shows the state of international acceptance of United Nations obligations—that unless the fund was large enough he might have to withdraw the force before December 26. The financial situation of the United Nations is such that he had no alternative but to make this announcement. I would hope that other countries in the United Nations will follow the example of Canada and Ireland and other countries and assume obligations which under the charter are legally imposed upon them as well as upon us.

[Later:]

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the commitment of Canadian troops to Cyprus for another three months, which makes a total

of nine months, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he is prepared to give the house an estimate of the cost that will be much more accurate than his completely erroneous estimate of July 28?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend always clothes a fairly intelligent question with unnecessary abuse. The Minister of National Defence will deal with the question.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I have been accused of unnecessary abuse. On a point of privilege I think I have to point out that on July 28 the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that the total cost of Canada's participation, including the airlift—and I quote his exact words from page 6063 of *Hansard* for that date—"would be around \$2½ million for the year." On August 3 the Minister of National Defence said that up to that date the estimated cost had been \$2,200,000. Therefore there was not any abuse on my part. The abuse of the privileges of parliament was exercised by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in giving us erroneous information.

**An hon. Member:** As always.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I agree fully with you.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yukon.

**Mr. Churchill:** Can I not get an answer from the Minister of National Defence?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I think the problem is a matter of interpretation.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Most of the minister's statements need interpretation.

**Mr. Hellyer:** On August 3 I tabled figures of the estimated cost up to July 30. The estimated cost to date of Canadian participation in the United Nations force in Cyprus, including initial and support airlift and certain costs recoverable from the UN related to Canadian personnel at UN headquarters in Cyprus who are not members of the Canadian contingent, is \$2,810,000. This figure does not include the cost of the rotation of the Canadian contingent which began this morning. This is estimated at \$190,000.

On the basis of estimated monthly costs of \$305,000, expenditures for the next three months, including cost of material, food, other supplies, support airlift and services directly attributable to Canadian participation in the UN force, may be expected to amount to \$915,000. This does not include possible costs