

External Affairs

attend. If Canada can make any contribution to the success of the proposed conference, and that includes the convening of the meeting of the security council at the summit, that contribution will be made willingly and with full confidence that it will have the approval of all those who are sincerely dedicated to the cause of peace.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all hon. members of the house and certainly hon. members on this side will welcome the news the Prime Minister was good enough to give the house to the effect that the representatives of the people of Lebanon have chosen a president in the person of a distinguished Lebanese patriot. We must hope that this step will help bring to an end the civil disturbances in Lebanon and restore peace and stability in that country, and thereby make possible the withdrawal of outside forces, in this case forces from the United States of America.

I noted with interest what the Prime Minister said about the strengthening of the United Nations observation group. That strengthening should make it possible for the group to discharge its functions in Lebanon, which in turn would make it still easier for the United States forces to withdraw. We most warmly support the decision of the government to add another seven officers to that peace preservation corps under the flag of the United Nations. I can think of no way in which the Canadian army through its officers could better act in the present circumstances than as part of this peace preservation corps.

So far as the summit conference is concerned, we welcome also the information that it is now likely to be convened very shortly, and I reiterate the hope already expressed that after an initial meeting of the full security council, which without doubt will be subject to a great deal of publicity, perhaps those governments most concerned will be able to meet in some manner under the auspices of the United Nations in as much privacy as they can obtain, and not only make a contribution to the solution of the immediate crisis in the Middle East but begin a process of settlement by international agreement, including all the governments concerned, covering those political and economic problems which have plagued that area for so many years and which, if not settled, will undoubtedly before long result in another crisis in that part of the world.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we in this group are pleased with the further indication that there is a relaxation of the
[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

tension in Lebanon because it has been possible to elect a new president. We, of course, welcome wholeheartedly the announcement that UNOGIL will be strengthened in that area. We know that Canadians will support unanimously an increase in Canada's contribution. We express the hope that Canada will encourage the United States to withdraw its troops from this state as early as possible. We feel that the presence of United States troops in Lebanon has added to tension and is continuing to add to tension, and that they should be substituted by a strengthened UNOGIL immediately.

We welcome also the announcement by the United Kingdom that she is prepared to take part in a summit meeting, beginning August 12, at the United Nations. We express the hope that this summit meeting will be fruitful, that it will deal with the basic problems facing the people of this area, and that from that meeting will come not only arrangements for the withdrawal of the troops of the United States and the United Kingdom but also a program formulated for economic development that will result in the oil resources in that area being developed in the interests of the people who reside in those nations. We further express the hope that from the summit meeting will come an agreement which will lead to free elections in those nations so the people themselves may control their political as well as their economic destinies.

CEYLON—STATEMENT ON REQUEST FOR FURTHER
ECONOMIC AID

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, late in May the Canadian government received an urgent appeal from the government of Ceylon for economic aid, which it will require in order to finance a broad development program designed to strengthen its economy and provide a substantial increase in the standard of living of its people. Subsequently discussions have taken place between the ministers and officials of the governments of Canada and Ceylon concerning the nature of the assistance which Canada might contribute.

On the basis of these discussions, and having in mind the request made by Ceylon, it was decided to offer Ceylon a loan of \$2 million to finance the purchase of 25,000 tons of flour and to make an outright grant of 5,000 tons of flour valued at \$400,000.

I take this opportunity to inform the house that the government of Ceylon has decided to take up this loan and grant, and the shipment of the first 10,000 tons of flour will be made before the end of December of this year. The remainder of the flour