

Inquiries of the Ministry

Prime Minister in March 1957 with regard to this aspect of international law.

Mr. Fulton: Is it the intention of the government to give instructions to the Canadian ambassador at the United Nations to press for the recognition and guarantee by the United Nations of safe passage through these waters?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): As the Prime Minister said the other day, the first thing is to end the fighting. That is the purpose of the resolutions passed last night and today. Today's resolution was in simple terms. It does not involve the question raised by the hon. member in one way or the other, that is as to the rights and claims of the parties. Both resolutions were passed, of course, without prejudice to the rights and claims of the parties.

Mr. Fulton: Is it the intention of the government of Canada now to press in the United Nations for the acceptance of the right of free passage, and its guarantee by the United Nations?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): We have pressed this view in the United Nations, and we shall continue to do so.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: A supplementary question with further reference to earlier questions directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Once a cease fire has taken place, if it is acceptable to the various nations involved, there will be a number of political questions requiring attention. Is it the intention of the government of Canada to support the convening of the four great powers in the security council to bring about agreement in respect to those matters which will become of paramount importance once a cease fire has been agreed on?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The right hon. gentleman will recall that last week the Prime Minister urged four permanent members of the security council to use their powerful influence and position as members of the security council to try to bring about arrangements which would avoid the outbreak of hostilities.

Later he urged the same four great powers to use their influence to help bring about a cease fire. I can say to my right hon. friend, and I would ask him not to press me further, that the Prime Minister today has been in touch with persons in one of the great power countries urging action along this line.

[*Mr. Martin (Essex East):*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: So that it will be perfectly clear, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said as reported at page 1124 of *Hansard* for June 5 that he hoped the four great powers, the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the U.S.S.R. would realize they have a special responsibility, and added "I feel they perhaps should meet on a high political level." Is that the significance of the statement the minister has now made?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I prefer at this time not to go into details, but I can say to my right hon. friend that the Prime Minister has been discussing a phase of this matter that is not inconsistent with what my right hon. friend has read out. I may say I am sure the country will join with me in the view that there is great significance in the fact that there has been consultation, in particular between the Soviet union and the United States, consultation that undoubtedly had much influence on the decision of the security council last night.

While I am on my feet I would like, I am sure on behalf of all of us in this house, as I said to the Indian high commissioner this morning and as I intimated to the Brazilian ambassador, to say that the sympathy of Canada goes out to India for the loss of ten men in the United Nations emergency force, and to Brazil for the loss of one Brazilian soldier. Canada, as one of the component members of the United Nations emergency force, fully appreciates the contribution that all members of that force have made to the preservation of peace over a period of ten and a half years. Our sympathy goes out very sincerely to these two countries.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the security council has ordered the cease fire, could we be assured that the Canadian government's position will be that that body, having ordered a cease fire, has some responsibility for sponsoring peace negotiations and placing its guarantees and prestige behind any agreed settlement?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I certainly can give that assurance, and this was the tenor of the concluding remarks of our ambassador last night at the security council, when he quoted words uttered in this house by the Prime Minister to the effect that measures must now be taken to meet the causes of friction and hostility in the Middle East, so that we would not be called on again in