

### Oral Questions

I answered the House the other day that we thought the decision was taken some time between Sunday night and Monday night. Apparently *The New York Times* has a contrary opinion on which the Hon. Member seems to be basing his question. We will try to find out, but I would think that it would not make the search any easier particularly to have the NDP and the Tories in the task force because, as the Leader of the NDP rightly points out, he has views and the Tories do not.

**Mr. Broadbent:** One must not totally despair over the Tories finally making a decision at some point about something.

#### TIMING OF INVASION DECISION—NATURE OF AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister wants to rely simply on government sources, whether they are ambassadorial or others, could he now give the Government of Canada's view on when the decision was reached and who drafted the communique requesting American intervention? Finally, does he agree with the British firm that was hired to build the so-called military airport in Grenada that, far from being a military airport, it was constructed for civilian purposes and has been financed not only by the Cubans but by other western European States that are part of NATO? Does the Prime Minister agree with all of that?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I have not seen the statement by a British firm. I will look into it.

I do know that there has been an aid program of Canada to Grenada and, contrary to what the official critic of the Tory Party has said, that it was the highest—

**Mr. Stevens:** I did not say the highest; I said one of the highest.

**Mr. Trudeau:** One of the highest. I think it was six out of ten two years ago, and it was third out of ten last year. So one can say one of the highest, I suppose, because ten is not a very large number. However, it does seem to me that we have not denied that we have assisted, in some ways, the Government of Grenada. The House knows that we were hoping to prevent it from being pushed all the way into the hands of Castro and the Soviet Union, and that has been our policy.

On the specific facts of the airport which the Hon. Member asks about, it is not something of which I have knowledge, but I am sure we could find out.

#### REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** My question is directed to the Prime Minister—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Here comes a position.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stevens:** My question centres on our request last week for a reference to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence so that we could look into the Grenadian situation with particular reference to what went wrong with the Canadian airlift, why Canada was shut out from any meaningful knowledge of what was transpiring, and what indeed was the role of the Canadian ambassador in Washington with respect to this affair.

Since the Chairman of the Standing Committee seemed to be well disposed to such a reference, would the Prime Minister assure the House that the Government will co-operate in every way so that the committee can not only have the reference but a meaningful hearing?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the question is hypothetical. As I understand it, the Committee has not been set up yet.

**Mr. Stevens:** It is a Standing Committee.

**Mr. Trudeau:** It is a Standing Committee. I am sure that, as concerns the terms of reference of a question to it, our House Leader will gladly discuss the question with the House leaders of the other Parties.

#### POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister will recall that I asked him a question with respect to Canada's possible participation in an observation group or peace-keeping group, with respect to Grenada. Will he bring the House up to date on what steps have been taken by Canada with respect to participating in such a group? Would it be a Commonwealth type of group? Most important, will he assure the House that the provisional Government in Grenada will be consulted and that they will not exclude such countries as Barbados and Jamaica from whatever force is put together?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, may I advise the Hon. Member that we have been in close touch with Mr. Ramphal, through our High Commissioner in London, on this subject over the weekend. I think the Hon. Member would be aware that it is not intended at the present time to constitute a peace-keeping force in the sense that a new force would attempt to interpose itself between the troops presently on the island. What is intended is an effort to help restore constitutional authority on the island after forces might withdraw. I believe that the form that a Commonwealth presence might take is still somewhat unclear, except that it could support an interim government and could assist in the holding of elections at an appropriate time.