

*Oral Questions*

have been caught, will the Minister assure the House that none of the Canadians were injured?

● (1120)

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any Canadians being caught in sniper fire. I also want to say the attitude of the Hon. Member in suggesting we should have contacted the Canadians during the night to tell them to be at the airport this morning is a relatively naive appreciation of the situation on the island with respect to communications. There is chaos, and there is not a regularly operating telephone system.

**Mr. McDermid:** You were warned about it.

**Mr. Regan:** There are many difficulties in even getting straight answers from the American authorities at the airport, who are preoccupied with matters other than the evacuation.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Welcome to the club.

**Mr. Regan:** I want to say that once the Hercules went in this morning we could not have it wait to take the Canadians out because there is no parking room on the apron available to be assigned to this Canadian aircraft. The Americans instead have given us blanket approval to take the Hercules back in at any time, or on successive occasions, when groups of Canadians have been safely conveyed to the airport.

That is the situation. If the Hon. Member has ever had any connection with or any knowledge of a military operation, only then perhaps would he have an appreciation of the degree of confusion at the airport.

## REQUEST THAT STANDING COMMITTEE BE CONVENED

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, in view of the continuing answers that we are getting from the Government demonstrating its ineptitude, may I put my question to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence? Would the Chairman immediately convene that Committee with a view to framing the Committee's own reference to look into the situation in Grenada and to find out why this airlift has been so ineptly handled and, second, why was Canada shut out of any meaningful knowledge of what has now transpired, bearing in mind that if the Government did not know about the entry in Grenada, even the *Sunday Times* last Sunday headlined it for the people of Britain to see? Would the Chairman respond to those two requests?

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, it is well known when the Official Opposition and the third Party in this House express wishes as to other references for my Committee, I always consider their requests very seriously. I, therefore, intend very strongly to consider the possibility of at least calling the Steering Committee to see what should be our next order of reference.

The Hon. Member for York-Peel, the critic for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, knows very well that since the last days of June I already had an order of reference prepared. I was waiting for the end of this session so that in the very early days of the next session I could call my colleague from the Official Opposition and my colleague in the New Democratic Party to consider having as an order of reference a subject that is very apropos when we consider what the future will be in Grenada, namely, the peace-keeping operation, and more particularly, our role in Cyprus. I will, therefore, consider that for the weekend and advise, according to the rules of the House, my colleagues in both Parties in the Opposition.

## OFFER OF PEACE-KEEPING CONTINGENT

**Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible at the moment for the Grenadian affair. In view of the proposals made yesterday in this House by the Prime Minister, has Canada to date made a formal offer to participate in a peace-keeping force in Grenada? If so, when, and to whom was that proposal made?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, subsequent to the Prime Minister's statement yesterday that Canada would be prepared to participate under appropriate conditions in a Commonwealth force that might have a post-hostility role in the island of Grenada, on the instructions of the Prime Minister I spoke with Mr. Ramphal, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, who had originally called for a possible role for the Commonwealth. I indicated to him that Canada approved of his initiative and that, if such a force is found to be useful and is constituted, Canada would be prepared to participate and that Canada would be prepared to be of assistance in consultation with other Commonwealth countries, if the Secretary General so desired.

**Mr. Bosley:** Madam Speaker, I thank the Minister for his answer.

● (1125)

## PROVISION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

**Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. Is Canada giving any consideration at the moment to what other assistance it might provide to Grenada, for instance, medical supplies? In fact, would such arrangements be made by the Government potentially through NGOs like Red Cross? Has Canada asked the Americans to deliver such supplies to the island on our behalf, since we are so inept at managing aircraft with regard to Grenada?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, if I may start with the last part of the Hon. Member's question first, I suggest that we have not been inept but have placed aircraft at the nearest position where they can be helpful. It is not we but the Americans who are in control of the airstrip. We also feel that only when