

*External Aid*

effective aid except with the co-operation of the federal authorities themselves.

My last point is this. Canada has followed a policy of supplying all relief through the agency of the International Red Cross. It has been suggested by some that aid should be given through church agencies. But the International Red Cross is the only agency which has friendly relations with the federal area and is capable of negotiating agreements whereby relief supplies can enter Nigeria and hence Biafra. To act in any other way would be foolish. Moreover, it would undermine the whole of our relief effort.

In my opinion the Canadian government has done more to assist the starving people of Nigeria and Biafra than has the government of any other country in the world on a per capita basis. We have contributed in cash \$1,060,000 according to information I have received. Moreover, it is estimated that it cost the government, hence the Canadian people, \$105,000 to put the three Hercules aircraft into the position of being able to supply relief. While these aircraft were in the area it cost the Canadian people and estimated \$6,000 a day to maintain and man them. In addition, we have supplied observers to the observer team. All in all, the Canadian government has in my view done more on a per capita basis than any other government in the world.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Cafik:** The fact that these aircraft are not being used at the present time is no reflection on the Canadian government. It should certainly be obvious to the Canadian people that the reason these aircraft are not being used, particularly in Biafra, is that the Biafran authorities themselves have refused to allow them to fly into Biafra on daylight flights, not wishing to confine daylight flights to relief supplies. They seem to be more concerned—and I am not being critical; it is a matter for them to judge—about the conduct of the war than they are about the plight of their own people. It is not the fault of this government that Biafra has not agreed to accept the aid we have offered.

All this does not mean we should be satisfied with our present efforts. I think more should be done. However remote the possibility of success may seem, ways and means should be explored in an attempt to do everything possible to feed these starving people.

Had we approached this problem in any other way I believe we would have destroyed our good offices not only in Biafra but in

Nigeria. We would have destroyed something which has taken many years to build—a certain attitude toward foreign affairs which must be sustained in order that we may continue to exert some kind of influence among the emerging nations of the world. If we begin to act now like a bull in a china shop, throwing aside international laws and rules, we shall lose our influence in foreign affairs for many years to come.

After hearing evidence and making judgment on the basis of that evidence, the committee reached certain conclusions with respect to conditions in Nigeria and Biafra. First, the committee found no evidence of genocide. Indeed, I have not heard anyone recently seriously suggest that genocide was taking place. Second, the committee believed that the international observer team, in spite of the criticism directed to it by certain 24-hour visitors to that region, had done a good job in performing its functions and that the evidence it presented was accurate according to the terms of reference under which it is operated. Third, we felt that the federal government of Nigeria is enforcing its code of conduct on federal troops in a proper and humane manner.

• (6:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member to advise him that his time has expired.

**Mr. Cafik:** May I have the permission of the Chair to carry on for another moment or two?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Cafik:** If I might sum up my personal views, I believe it is absolutely essential that we maintain our good offices with Nigeria. I think this is fundamental to any approach we take. I believe we do have better offices with Nigeria than any other nation in the world today. I think we have proven by our efforts that we are truly concerned about their needs. I believe we can properly take advantage of this by perhaps offering our services as a mediator in this dispute, consistent with our policy not to interfere in their affairs. I recommend that this be given careful consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before calling it six o'clock may I be permitted to refer for a moment to the procedural aspect of the amendment moved by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal.