

Inquiries of the Ministry

● (3:50 p.m.)

[English]

UNITED NATIONS**USE OF CANADIAN FORCE IN CONGO OR
GAZA STRIP**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether or not there has been any suggestion from the United Nations that Canada's mobile force be made available in the Congo. If not, has there been any offer on the part of Canada to make the force available in the Gaza strip or those areas between Egypt and Israel, and Jordan and Israel?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): With regard to the situation in the Congo, there is no proposal before the United Nations for a United Nations presence which would call for the contribution of military forces from countries such as Canada where preparations have been made in anticipation of such circumstances. If the United Nations is faced with such a situation, Canada will of course, pursuant to its obligations under the charter, give the matter the consideration which is habitually given to such situations by the government.

With regard to the situation in the Gaza strip, there is no proposal now for the establishment of a new United Nations presence there. One body is already in existence between Israel and Syria and Jordan; the United Nations truce and supervisory organization on which Canada is represented by some 22 officers. It is thought that this body can serve to carry out the necessary function of observation, and help to make a cease fire effective and ultimately, it may be, to assume other obligations which have yet to be extended to it by the security council.

RHODESIA—EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question with respect to the situation in Rhodesia? In view of the statements which have recently been made by the prime minister of Great Britain with regard to the situation in Rhodesia and the degree of effectiveness of economic sanctions, may I ask the hon. gentleman (1) whether the Canadian government is reviewing the effectiveness of these sanctions, and (2) whether the Canadian

[Mr. Lachance.]

government intends to advance any proposals, either in the security council or at the United Nations assembly, for tightening up economic sanctions in order that they may prove more effective?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As my hon. friend knows, Mr. Speaker, Canada has fully subscribed to the requirements of the mandatory sanctions imposed by the security council a few months ago. Canada is not in a position by itself to assess the effectiveness of these sanctions. The Secretary General will be making a report to the security council soon on the sanctions and then, when this report is before the security council the UN member states, including Canada, will be in a position to determine whether or not additional economic sanctions are necessary. However, it is noteworthy, as my hon. friend has just indicated, that the recent statement by Mr. Smith shows that the sanctions are having effect.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question with regard to sanctions in Rhodesia. Is it the purpose of the Canadian government through the imposition of sanctions to create serious economic distress in Rhodesia and vast unemployment?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. friend knows that the purpose for which Britain and all commonwealth countries, and most other countries in the world, have agreed to the mandatory sanctions program of the United Nations is because they wish to bring down a government that has exercised a form of discrimination which in this day and age simply cannot be tolerated by the international community.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask one other supplementary question. Is it the intention of the government to take similar action against various governments in the countries of the world that have been established by revolution and military dictatorship, and are therefore illegal?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am sure my hon. friend knows that on the orders of the day such a sweeping question could only bring a sweeping answer in an exchange that would be of little practical meaning.