

Inquiries of the Ministry

touch with the R.C.A.F. at Leopoldville. I am informed this morning that no such incident occurred. No R.C.A.F. plane has been fired upon; no R.C.A.F. personnel have been fired upon; no R.C.A.F. plane was in the Buta district yesterday. The R.C.A.F. are employed now on the ferrying of supplies and equipment to the United Nations force between Pisa and Leopoldville.

DISARMAMENT—REPORTED SOVIET REQUEST FOR BREAK IN DEADLOCK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister's attention been drawn to the report in this morning's *Gazette* under a London dateline to the effect that Soviet Premier Khrushchev has suggested to Britain and Canada that the next session of the United Nations general assembly should try to break the east-west deadlock on disarmament? I should like to ask the minister whether any official letter has been received, and whether he has any comment to make on the suggestion.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, a letter has been received from Premier Khrushchev which is a reply to the reply which had been sent to his first letter by our Prime Minister.

CONGO—REPORTED NEED FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs based on a news report in yesterday's *Globe and Mail* which states:

U.N. officials said the health problem throughout the Congo had become extremely grave. They said there was urgent need for 200 physicians. Nearly all Belgian physicians have left the country.

I should like to ask the minister whether consideration is being given to doing what we can in co-operation with the doctors in order to meet this very urgent problem?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in response to a request from the secretary general of the United Nations through the world health organization and the international committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross societies of a number of countries have agreed to supply medical teams to provide medical attention for civilians in hospitals where the staff has been depleted by the departure of the Europeans. The Canadian Red Cross is preparing to send two teams,

[Mr. Pearkes.]

each consisting of one surgeon, one physician skilled in tropical diseases and three nurses. All will be bilingual. It is expected that these teams will remain for three months and that they will be ready to leave for the Congo before the end of this week.

I am sure all members of the house will join me in commending the Canadian Red Cross and its officers for the prompt and efficient manner in which they have responded to this request for assistance.

CONGO—SECONDING OF CANADIAN OFFICERS TO UNEF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the house that in response to a request from the secretary general of the United Nations and in accordance with the recommendation of the commander of the United Nations emergency force in Palestine, the government has approved that four Canadian army officers, now serving with UNEF, be seconded to the United Nations force in the Congo for service at General Von Horne's headquarters. Two of these officers, Captain E. R. Shred and Captain D. M. Youngston, are specialists in movement control. The other two, Captain J. E. Clark and Captain B. P. J. Glow, are specialists in equipment and transport respectively.

These four officers from UNEF have all volunteered. They are in addition to, and in a different category from, the five Canadian officers requested earlier from UNTSO, whose service in the Congo is part of the technical assistance program which the secretary general is implementing in order to reorganize the security forces there.

The four Canadians from UNEF were required as soon as possible, and I understand that early this morning they left Cairo for Leopoldville. They will serve with General Von Horne until alternative arrangements can be made. Similar requests have been made for Danish, Indian and Norwegian officers in UNEF and the response from the governments concerned has been favourable.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question. Is this the extent of the Canadian contribution up to the present? Further, may I ask if the minister has anything to say about the announcement made yesterday at the United Nations by the prime minister of the Congo, that he proposes to visit Canada seeking technical assistance, particularly among people who speak the French language?

Mr. Green: From time to time Mr. Speaker, there have been announcements in the house