

Supply—External Affairs

through his knowledge of their tongue and because of his own personal qualities, to these people from the African states who spoke French and who were attending the United Nations.

I think it is very important to make sure that we make provision, not only in this item but in other items in other estimates, for students to come to Canada. There should be proper provision for students to arrive from Asia, Africa and those countries where French is the native language.

Item agreed to.

671. To provide for memorial plaques presented to Ireland to commemorate the life and work of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, \$800.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, vote 671 is to provide for memorial plaques presented to Ireland to commemorate the life and work of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. I am rather curious as to what was the inscription on these plaques. Has the minister any information on what was the inscription and who composed the inscription, and can he assure us that it did not contain any Progressive Conservative propaganda?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell the hon. gentleman exactly what the inscription was, but I would not be surprised if it had something to do with Dublin's fair city, where girls are so pretty.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, this is not a large item. We heard previously about transferable items. I think I have read that these plaques have already been erected. Under what circumstances are we now being asked to authorize this expenditure?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The government has power, of course, to make provisions of this kind under the minor and unforeseen vote provision.

Mr. Benidickson: This is a replacement from that fund?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes.

[April 10, 1961]

I have since been informed that the sum in question is not a replacement to that particular fund. I had previously referred to the minor and unforeseen vote provision. The Department of Public Works had paid for the two plaques in question and provision was made in item 671 for a replacement of that expenditure on behalf of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Chevrier: Why is it "plaques" and not "plaque"?

Mr. Pearson: How many were there?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There were two plaques. One was written in Irish, and one in English.

Item agreed to.

90205-6—214

Contributions to international economic and special aid programs—

Special aid programs—

672. Contribution to the United Nations fund for the Congo in an amount of \$1,000,000 U.S. notwithstanding that payment may exceed or fall short of the equivalent in Canadian dollars, estimated as of February 1961, which is, \$991,000.

Mr. Pearson: I wonder if the minister would give us some information about this item which is a contribution to the United Nations fund for the Congo. What proportion of the total contributions to this fund would this vote of approximately \$1 million represent? What is the work covered by this vote? I am certainly not quarreling with Canada's contribution. Do we get any consideration for the money which we are already spending on the maintenance of our force in the Congo and that kind of thing?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item of \$991,000 is the equivalent in United States funds of \$1 million. It has nothing whatever to do with the support of military operations carried out by the United Nations or the support of Canadian forces in the Congo. It relates only to civil operations of the United Nations.

Last September the Secretary General of the United Nations urgently recommended to the security council that a fund of \$100 million be established for the Congo. That recommendation was approved at the fourth session of the general assembly and the secretary general then requested all member governments to give urgent consideration to making a contribution to this fund. Canada's contribution, as recommended in this item, is \$1 million. The fund is intended to bring immediate financial assistance on a large scale to re-establish stable administration and internal security in the Congo and to restore normal economic life. It is not designed to set up a permanent subsidy as the Congo is expected to pay its own way both currently and for development purposes in what, it is hoped, will be the near future.

The Prime Minister in his speech at the United Nations general assembly on September 26 pledged Canada to contribute a portion of this proposed fund. The United States has made two contributions of \$5 million each. The Netherlands has contributed \$1 million. New Zealand, for example, contributed \$280,000.

Mr. Pearson: Are those the only members who have made contributions to this fund?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The pledges which, of course, are not all paid, are as follows according to the latest information I have: Australia, \$750,000; Cambodia, \$2,040; Den-