

*Oral Questions*

they travel throughout Canada. I point out to the hon. member from the New Democratic party that, at my request some five, six or seven years ago the leader of his party, the leader of the Progressive Conservative party and the leader of the Social Credit party of Canada were also given passes, which I suppose they use.

**Mr. Janelle:** Mr. Speaker, my question is again directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. I am speaking here of air passes given to the federal cabinet ministers which are being used for personal trips, for holidays. Is that use of those passes not contradictory to the code of ethics edicted by the right hon. Prime Minister some time ago?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member is speaking of special passes. May I repeat that I have not read the article. But I say again that ministers are provided with permanent passes, valid for a year but renewable from year to year; they are the same type of passes as those which, thanks to my intervention, the leader of the Social Credit party, the leader of the New Democratic Party and the leader of the Progressive Conservative party also received.

[*English*]

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Since every member of the cabinet, as well as each party leader, has been issued these passes, and in view of considerable concern about their possible abuse, has the Prime Minister or have any of his ministers issued any guidelines, or have any guidelines ever been considered, so that Canadians can fully appreciate the fact that these passes are really for the purpose of fulfilling ministerial responsibilities and are not to be abused in any way? I think such abuse would be against the interest of the availability of these passes.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I think it goes without saying that ministers, like other members of this House, would take free rides on Department of National Defence planes going to Europe. I know there are many Tories who do that. I assume they do it for the purpose of fulfilling their duties as parliamentarians.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister did not hear me. We are talking specifically about the passes which are given to cabinet ministers and party leaders with respect to two commercial airlines which operate both inside and outside Canada.

In view of the fact that this practice has been in existence for many years, can the Prime Minister indicate whether any guidelines have been issued or whether there is any understanding about the proper or improper use of these passes?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I have issued no precise guidelines on this matter to ministers nor, indeed, to the Leader of the Opposition, who receives the same kind of pass.

I understood the hon. member's question perfectly. The use to which these passes are put is to be decided by ministers, just

[*Mr. Trudeau.*]

as it is to be decided by members of the opposition when they take free rides on DND planes. I hope they do it according to their conscience.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES**

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in somewhat of a "ready, aye ready" statement in London, said that the government has reached an advanced state of planning for sending a battalion of combat troops of 600 to 700 men to Namibia.

Would the Prime Minister tell the House if such reports are true and, if so, will the government now undertake to bring a resolution before the House for debate before a final decision is made to send troops on a new and major UN commitment?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure why, in the preface to his question, the hon. member mocked the minister by suggesting that the minister's position is a "ready, aye ready" position. The House knows—and I thought we had the support of the opposition—that in peacekeeping operations Canada is indeed in the forefront of all countries which are members of the United Nations. I believe we have the greatest number of troops involved in such operations.

We happen to think this is a useful way to employ our military people. We want to make sure that our military people serve peace as well as war, and I believe there is full support for that. I hope the hon. member supports that policy.

As far as Namibia is concerned, the hon. member knows that Canada was one of the Group of Five trying to find a peaceful solution to the problem in Namibia. All the Secretary of State for External Affairs said was that if the United Nations asked us for further troops, we would naturally consider the request.

**Mr. McKinnon:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister did not answer the basic question of whether he would bring this matter back to the House in the form of a resolution so that the Parliament of Canada could know what kind of commitment we are getting into. At the present time, all the Canadian people and parliament know is that we are getting into a new and major commitment which is being made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding a very dicey situation in Africa. Can the Prime Minister assure the House that we will have an opportunity to debate a resolution in this House on this important matter?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member knows that, he certainly knows more than I do in this particular case. To my knowledge, there is no commitment. The Secretary of State for External Affairs made no commitment. The parliamentary secretary tells me that no request has been made to us