

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, July 31, 1958

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

#### MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS—CONCURRENCE IN SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. R. J. McCleave (Halifax)** presented the seventh report of the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Sixth report of standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines.—**Mr. Fraser.**

Fourth report of standing committee on mines, forests and waters.—**Mr. Murphy.**

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### LEBANON—STATEMENT ON ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make on UNOGIL and the Lebanese election.

Hon. members have no doubt already heard that the Lebanese chamber of deputies has elected General Fouad Chehab as the next president of the Republic of Lebanon. We in Canada sincerely welcome his election, both because of the widespread respect which he enjoys both inside and outside Lebanon and also because of the reassuring evidence afforded by his election that the Lebanese people are determined to put an end to the difficulties which have unhappily divided them in recent months. We express the hope that the transitional period before the new president takes office will pass peaceably and without further disturbances. We trust that under his presidency the task of the United Nations observation group will continue to be facilitated, and that UNOGIL will be able to contribute to conditions of stability that will render easier the task undertaken by the general.

On July 22 mention was made in this chamber of the increasing effectiveness of the United Nations observation group in Lebanon. It was announced then that in response to a request by the Secretary General of the United Nations the government was assigning an additional three Canadian officers for service with UNOGIL and that

attention would be given to any further requirements as events transpired. There is every indication that despite the Soviet veto on July 22 of the resolution proposed by Japan—that was the resolution within the security council—it has been possible for UNOGIL, within the authority granted it by the security council resolution of June 11, to expand the scope and area of its operations.

We have now received a further request from the secretary general for additional assistance, and in response have agreed to assign an additional seven Canadian officers. This will bring to 20 the number of officers—in a total force of some 200—sent from Canada to help in this operation.

It is encouraging to note that so far 20 countries have been approached to provide personnel for UNOGIL, indicating the breadth of the international base that is being sought and achieved for this exercise which we believe will bring about the preservation of peace.

#### SUMMIT CONFERENCE—PROPOSED MEETING ON AUGUST 12

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I wish also to take this opportunity to say something in regard to the heads of government meeting and the security council. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom announced in the House of Commons at Westminster today that in the reply he has sent to Mr. Khrushchev's message of July 28 he has suggested that the proposed high level meeting of the security council be held on August 12, the place and details of the meeting to be worked out in the security council by the permanent representatives of the member states. The Canadian government welcomes the positive stand taken by Mr. Macmillan, a stand which is fully in conformity with the position I have taken ever since the suggestion for a summit conference on the Middle East was put forward.

As has been made clear in the House of Commons on more than one occasion, the government of Canada stands ready today to do all in its power to promote the successful completion of the steps now contemplated to the end that this meeting may take place. If the security council, of which Canada is currently a member, is in fact convened at heads of government level on August 12 in New York or elsewhere, I shall be ready to