

Inquiries of the Ministry

question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. While we are all pleased that the security council has issued an order for a cease fire and we all hope all the antagonists will comply, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs where we go from here. If the cease fire is not merely to be a breathing spell for the antagonists to regroup their forces and procure reinforcements, some peace negotiations will be necessary. Is it the thought of the Canadian government that the security council will begin to promulgate such peace negotiations in the hope of bringing about a stable situation in the Middle East?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is our hope, of course, and this is partly what the government had in mind when it instructed our ambassador today to table the resolution he did.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Have any of the combatant countries as yet complied with the order? There is the rumour that Jordan has done so.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Secretary General made a report on that at this afternoon's meeting, and said he had heard from General Bull, commander of the United Nations truce and supervisory organization, that he had had an approach from Jordan.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, could I put a further supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did I understand him to say that the Canadian representative had tabled a motion? If so could the minister read the motion to the house so we will be aware of the recommendation the Canadian representative is making?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I did read the resolution, Mr. Speaker; it is now a matter of record. I read it a few moments ago. I am not trying to take advantage of my hon. friend; I did read it, but I will read it again:

The security council, noting resolutions S/7933 of June 6 and S/7940 of June 7, requests the president of the security council, with the assistance of the Secretary General, to take the necessary measures to bring about full and effective compliance with these resolutions.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, what I was asking the minister about was this. I followed the motion with reference to compliance, but I understood the minister to say in answer to my question that the Canadian government

was taking some initiative in the matter of peace negotiations which would be proceeded with as soon as the cease fire had been brought into effect. Is any such motion being tabled by the Canadian delegate and, if so, what is the nature of that resolution?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend will understand that these resolutions are tabled in the light of the consultations which take place with certain countries and also with the president and members of the secretariat. Beyond that I do not want to go now. But in addition—

Mr. Starr: You have not gone anywhere.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I do not think I can be expected at this stage to do so, in view of the fact there is discussion taking place now on whether this resolution will be considered today. I have just been advised that notwithstanding what he said about half an hour ago, the delegate for Bulgaria agrees in principle with the Canadian resolution but asks for further time to study it. In addition, this morning the Prime Minister was in touch with certain other governments about matters not unrelated to the kind of question my hon. friend put to me a few moments ago.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I refer to the report given out yesterday or the day before that as a protective measure the U.A.R. had closed the Suez canal. Is the canal still closed, or has it been reopened in recent hours?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take that question under advisement before giving a reply.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether it is the view of the government of Canada that the strait of Tiran and the gulf of Aqaba should be open for passage by ships of all nations, and will the government press at the United Nations to have this position accepted and agreed upon by that body?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): When the Prime Minister spoke to this house, I think it was last Wednesday, he stated the view of the Canadian government with regard to the right of innocent passage in the strait of Tiran and I, in answer to questions on May 23 and May 24, called the attention of the house to the government's view with regard to this matter, reaffirming the statement made by the