

Inquiries of the Ministry

further six months the maintenance of the Canadian contingent in the United Nations force in Cyprus?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not certain whether that decision has yet been made, but certainly it is the intention of the Canadian government to agree to such a proposal.

Mr. Stanfield: That is quite a sentence, if you analyse it.

Mr. Harkness: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the size of the Canadian contingent to remain the same, or will there be any reduction or increase in it?

Mr. Sharp: It is our hope that there will be a reduction.

FLOODS**TRAIL, B.C.—ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO DISASTER FUND**

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Speaker. I believe this is the day upon which it is anticipated an answer will be given in connection with federal aid to the City of Trail in respect of flood damage. Is the minister now in a position to make known the results of the cabinet's consideration of this important matter?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): I am pleased to tell the house that the Government of Canada has decided to make a contribution of \$200,000 to the Trail disaster fund. We are earmarking it for the private sector, whether business premises or private homes. I think the house will be interested in knowing that total private losses have now been assessed as \$1,150,000, and our contribution will make possible a distribution in that area of \$931,000, which I think is a generous underwriting.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): May I ask a further supplementary question with regard to the situation at Trail in order that the record may be clear. Can the minister tell us what the other \$731,000 expenditure by the federal government in the Trail area entailed?

Mr. Laing: I was referring earlier to the total amount to be distributed to the private sector. The \$731,000 is the contribution made by the Province of British Columbia and the private subscription which was contributed, and which reached a sum, I believe, of \$100,000 or \$120,000.

[Mr. Harkness.]

LUMSDEN, SASK.—SHARING IN COST OF DAMAGE PREVENTION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Could the minister advise the house whether the federal government will also be sharing in the cost of preventing flood damage—and by this I do not mean what may be done under the Canada waters legislation; I refer, for example, to the cost of sandbagging and all the other costs incurred by the town of Lumsden in Saskatchewan. Has the hon. gentleman received requests for assistance in this regard and will the government be sharing these costs?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has a long record of making contributions in this regard, in the Manitoba area, in the Fraser Valley and in other areas under the Canada Water Act legislation, as well as by special agreement with the provinces. The hon. member makes particular reference to Saskatchewan. Action with regard to the situation there has been delayed only because as yet no full assessment of the loss incurred has been available.

HIGHWAYS**CALGARY MEETING ON PAVING OF ALASKA HIGHWAY**

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): On May 28, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Calgary South asked whether the United States government had requested permission of the Canadian Government for a congressional sub-committee to hold public meetings in Calgary on June 19 on the subject of paving the Alaska highway.

The Canadian Government has been informed by the United States authorities that a sub-committee of the United States House of Representatives wished to make arrangements for an informal exchange of views on the subject of paving the Alaska highway with interested businessmen and local officials in Calgary, Alberta, on June 19, 1969. The informal discussions proposed are not intended to constitute a public hearing.

AIR TRANSPORT**FLIGHTS OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT OVER CANADIAN COMMERCIAL AIR LANES**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Has the Government of Canada made strong representations to the