

P.C. Club

MacDonald Describes Biafran situation

At the Monday, October 28, meeting of the Dal Progressive Conservative Club Rev. David MacDonald, told of his experiences during a recent fact-finding mission in Biafra. The M.P. from P.E.I. said that the reasons for going to Nigeria was to try to get more information on the situation in Biafra.

MacDonald said that morale is high in spite of the appalling living conditions. A cigarette costs \$2.00 while an egg is \$5.00. There is fighting on all

sides. There are as many as 25 people sleeping in one small room and sometimes it is necessary for them to sleep in shifts. The food-line can be cut off any time. MacDonald explained that "All the senior officials have a good-humoured view of what must be one of the most tragic sights in the world. The people believe very profoundly that this is a war of survival and are prepared to die for the Cause."

MacDonald went on to say that "This is not just

an African war, but one of many international dimensions and involvements. France, Russia, and Great Britain are sending arms to Nigeria. Britain hopes for a quick kill, then the re-establishment of the Nigerian Federation."

"There are several European countries sending aid to Biafra," said MacDonald, "including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, West Germany, Holland, and France, along with a few African countries." Mr. MacDonald stated that "Since Canada has no interests in the war, she can be impartial. Canada's role can be to call for a cease-fire through the United Nations or a special Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference." Mr. MacDonald felt that "The Nigerian issue should be taken to the United Nations' Third Committee on human rights, but that this will probably not be done. The Canadian Government is playing it cautious as the Nigerian Federation might take it as a snub if Canada consorts with the 'rebels'."

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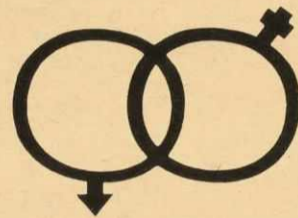
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