

Inquiries of the Ministry

country, there are political as well as economic problems and I think that to solve the political problems of several of those countries we will have to solve or help them solve their economic problems first.

This is not the first time that the 18 commonwealth nations have met in London. They have met several times, and not always with the best of results. This time we are promised that the results will be better. From the economic standpoint, there should be co-operation and mutual aid between member nations of the British commonwealth; they should also, as an association, carry on transactions with non-member countries of the commonwealth.

I am sure that all those questions have been discussed at the conference which the Canadian Prime Minister attended.

As far as Canada is concerned, I have no doubt that they were discussed. We are not in the same position as the other commonwealth countries; we would like to see the commonwealth countries help one another to settle their economic problems through exports and imports among themselves.

But geographically, economically and politically, Canada is in a special position. We are located in North America. Our markets are not as much in the commonwealth countries, as in countries outside the commonwealth. Our larger markets are in our neighbour country, the United States. Others are available to us in South America and in Europe. We do not do too much business within the commonwealth. But it would be advisable that all members of the commonwealth—and again, I have no doubt that the right hon. Prime Minister mentioned it in London—turn to Canada and see its tremendous potentialities as regards the strengthening of that association of commonwealth nations and the development of new markets within the commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that that conference of the commonwealth prime ministers will have good results and will enable, not only one nation, Canada, but all nations to improve their economic, and political situation and, at the same time, to improve conditions which prevail in countries outside our association.

As the leader of the New Democratic party said, some countries need our technical aid, our advice, our suggestions and our assistance. The commonwealth nations may give technical assistance to those underdeveloped countries by allocating subsidies to them, by supplying financial and physical as well as moral help, so as to put a stop to those

people killing each other as it is now the case, and to the hatred of man for man, because all men, whoever they be, whatever their colour or creed, are, after all God's creatures who have a right to live and to develop freely.

I trust that the commonwealth countries, working together, will be able to give an example to the whole world and to promote a just and durable peace, thus creating a national and international atmosphere in which the human person, the individual may develop as freely, as naturally and as normally as possible.

[Text]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**QUEBEC—STEPS TO PROVIDE WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The d.b.s. publication "Labour Force" for June shows unemployment in Quebec at 105,000, exactly the same figure as in June, 1962. Where are the bold, imaginative plans or has Quebec been left out?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is not here at the moment. I assume he thought we would take longer on the report on the commonwealth conference, but for him I would say that the considerable improvement in the unemployment situation perhaps answers my hon. friend's question.

Mr. Pigeon: What do you have in mind to do to correct the situation? What are your plans?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CYPRUS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRESENT SITUATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I intended to direct this question to the Prime Minister but in his absence I will direct it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Prime Minister has now returned and we are continuing to hear very disturbing rumours about what is taking place in regard to the arms build-up in Cyprus. Even this morning there was a report that the Greek Cypriots are moving artillery and mortars into position. In view of this expanding and threatening military build-up does