

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

they came to the conclusion it was essential to the maintenance of the peace that the peacekeeping force should be maintained, I am sure we would give sympathetic consideration to such a request.

**Mr. Ryan:** Will our troop commitment continue if the mandate is renewed?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The supplementary question is hypothetical.

GUINEA—SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNATION OF INVASION BY PORTUGUESE FORCES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the condemnation by the United Nations Security Council of the invasion of Guinea by Portuguese forces, has the government taken any action in support of the Security Council resolution, or does it contemplate taking any action in support of that resolution?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this is an important question. I would like to give a full answer, so perhaps I might be permitted to take the question as notice.

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[Translation]

NAVIGATION

USE OF ICEBREAKER TO KEEP CHANNEL OPEN BETWEEN SOREL AND BERTHIER

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Since at this period of the year, the channel between Berthier and Sorel is clogged with ice, considerably holding up the transport of some workers, and following a certain number of representations made by the Chambers of Commerce of my area, I should like to ask the minister whether he can assure us that special steps will be taken to have the channel patrolled by an icebreaker and to make the ferry service available at all times, day or night?

[English]

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to see what more we can do and advise the hon. member.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIAN NAVAL PENETRATION OF INDIAN OCEAN

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it government policy that extensive Russian naval penetration

[Mr. Sharp.]

of the Indian Ocean has no practical effect on the political and military balance in the world?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows he cannot ask a question in those terms. The hon. member may wish to rephrase the question.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

EFFECT OF CURTAILMENT OF SALMON FISHING FLEETS—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NATIVE FISHERMEN

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I would have directed this question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but perhaps I could direct it to the Minister of Fisheries because it relates to both departments. Is the minister aware that a number of fishing companies on the coast of British Columbia are now taking steps to curtail their salmon fishing fleets in particular for the coming year, affecting in the Prince Rupert area upward of 100 native fishermen? If he is aware of this, has his department any plans to preserve the position of the fishermen in the fishing industry?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the department is aware of this problem, and alternative means of financing these fishermen have been investigated jointly with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Inasmuch as this matter has been explored, can the minister provide the details to us so that the Indian people will know what is taking place?

**Mr. Davis:** Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, this plan is to be administered by the Indian Fishermen's Assistance Board which is already in existence in British Columbia, and the funds will be made available by the Department of Indian Affairs.

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[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

In view of the statement the right hon. Prime Minister made during the Christmas recess that inflation no longer existed in Canada, although it had seemed the excuse for and the cause of all our economic ills for two years, could the Acting Prime Minister tell us on what street corner the right hon. Prime Minister met inflation and made it disappear—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! I am sure the hon. member will admit that the question as asked is not in order.