

Inquiries of the Ministry

2. What were the terms of the sale of these aircraft and what was the number of aircraft involved?
3. What were the terms of the loan?
4. Have any of these aircraft been delivered to India and, if so, how many?
5. Have any repayments been made with respect to this loan and, if so, on what occasions and what were the sums involved?

Return tabled.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY, LAKEHEAD
TO MANITOBA

Question No. 1,764—Mr. Fisher:

1. What are the specific sections of the trans-Canada highway completed west of the lakehead to the Manitoba boundary?
2. What were the dates of completion, the names of the contractors and the level and percentage of the federal contribution on each contract?
3. How many times and at which intervals, does the federal authority examine the completed contract sections to determine the quality of the work and the way it is standing up to conditions?
4. On how many new sections has the government found the road breaking up and in need of considerable repair?
5. If the federal authority does not follow up the wearing quality of the construction, what information has it from the provincial authority, on the state of these completed highway sections?
6. What portion of the mileage of this stretch is completed to trans-Canada standards?
7. What portion is now under construction and what are the target dates for completion of the remaining unfinished portions, in so far as the federal authority is aware?
8. Is there any simple explanation for the many years it is taking to complete this section of the highway?

Return tabled.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CYPRUS—EXTENSION OF TERM OF PEACE
KEEPING FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I heard over the radio that the Secretary of State for External Affairs intended to make a statement today with regard to the Cyprus force. I would ask him whether what appeared in the press, that there is to be an extension, is correct; and whether his attention has been directed to articles in the *New York Times* and other influential papers setting out contributions which various countries have made to the Cyprus force, together with promises for the future, but making not one reference to Canada, the one country which seems to be paying more for its whistle as a member of the United Nations than any other in this connection.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I fully share the right hon.

gentleman's irritation over this inexcusable failure to note the contribution made by Canada in the Cyprus peace keeping operation, which, I think I may be allowed to say on behalf of the country, is a contribution exceeded by that of no other nation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The United Nations security council, as the right hon. gentleman has just indicated, adopted a resolution late Friday afternoon extending the term of the United Nations force in Cyprus. Following receipt of the official request from the secretary general over the week end that Canada should continue to participate in the force for a further three months, the government has authorized me to inform the secretary general that Canada is prepared to do so on the same terms that applied to the Canadian contribution in the first two three-month periods.

As a result of this decision arrangements for the rotation of the Canadian contingent are now proceeding, and my colleague the Minister of National Defence advises me that the first flights left this morning. The first battalion of the Canadian Guards will be going to Cyprus to relieve the first battalion of the Royal 22nd regiment, the Van Doos, and a reconnaissance squadron of the Lord Strathcona Horse will relieve the reconnaissance squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

I am sure the house would wish me to take the occasion of the return to Canada within the next week of members of the Royal 22nd regiment and the Royal Canadian Dragoons to say how very proud the people of Canada are of the exemplary way in which the members of these famous units have carried out the difficult and delicate duties which have been entrusted to them.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The words of commendation for the force which the hon. gentleman has used are, of course, worthy of the support of all hon. members and of Canadians as a whole. I think the commendation is all the more deserved because of the fact that this United Nations force has been hobbled from the start, and has about it only the veneer of effectiveness without the necessary powers to carry out its responsibilities.

I would ask the minister in this connection why it is that in all the press reports I have been able to read, in the *New York Times* particularly, there is no reference to any request on the part of Canada, which has the