Questions

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following answers, deposited with the Clerk of the house, are printed in the official report of debates pursuant to standing order 39:

SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

Question No. 271—**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**

What are the reasons that Canada abstained from voting on a Nigerian resolution calling on South Africa to withdraw from the ILO, as reported in the press June 23?

Answer by: **Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):**

The Nigerian government delegation to the ILO conference submitted a draft resolution condemning the policy of apartheid in South Africa and proposing that the governing body advise South Africa to withdraw from the ILO.

Canada has made clear its disapproval of apartheid and its hope that this policy may be modified. It is not likely that such a modification can be brought about by actions calculated to force South Africa out of international bodies, thereby further isolating it from the international community and from changing ideas and world conditions. Thus in the United Nations general assembly Canada opposed the imposition of economic and other sanctions against South Africa, but supported a resolution which emphasized, in a moderate and responsible way, the widespread international concern over apartheid. Similar considerations would seem to apply to the Nigerian proposal in the ILO.

In the resolutions committee and in the plenary session of the international labour conference, Canada supported that part of the resolution condemning apartheid but abstained on the resolution as a whole, which called for South Africa's withdrawal from the international labour organization.

In addition to Canada's general position on this matter, there are other important considerations having a particular bearing on the situation as it arose in the international labour conference. First, there is no provision in the ILO constitution by which a member state can be forced to resign. Second, the Nigerian resolution might well serve as a precedent for similar resolutions seeking the withdrawal from the ILO of other countries whose political and economic policies are considered objectionable by some members. Third, South Africa has ratified a number of ILO conventions, but as a non-member country is not subject to the disciplines and responsibilities inherent in ILO membership, its withdrawal might not be in the best interests of the South African workers.

ANGOLA—CANADIAN PROTESTS AND ASSISTANCE

Question No. 272—**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**

1. Is the government prepared to express publicly and forcefully the horror of the Canadian people at the brutal measures of repression being practiced by the Portuguese authorities in Angola?

2. Has the Canadian government given any assurance to the Portuguese government that Canada stands ready to assist in creative programs for the welfare of the people of Angola?

3. Is the Canadian government prepared to aid the tens of thousands of Angolan refugees who have been forced to flee to the Congo?

4. Is the Canadian government assisting in United Nations efforts to aid these refugees?

Answer by: **Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):**

1. The government, through its support of general assembly resolution A/RES/1603(XV) of April 22, 1961, has expressed its concern about the situation in Angola.

2. The Canadian government is awaiting the report of the United Nations sub-committee on Angola and in the light of that report will consider what further action might usefully be taken.

3. No international appeal has been launched for the Angolan refugees to which the Canadian government has been asked to contribute.

4. Angolan refugees in the Congo are receiving assistance from international organizations such as UNICEF and the league of Red Cross societies. The Canadian government makes an annual contribution to UNICEF as well as other United Nations organizations in the Congo, and contributes indirectly to the league of Red Cross societies.

CANADIAN MILITARY AID TO PORTUGAL

Question No. 273—**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**

1. Will the government assure the house that there will be no sale or transfer of Canadian arms or other military equipment to Portugal while present Portuguese policies persist?

2. Is the government fully satisfied that none of the military assistance provided by Canada to Portugal has been of even indirect assistance to Portugal in her military operations in Angola?

3. If not, what steps are being taken to ensure that Canadian military assistance already supplied to Portugal is not directly or indirectly to support Portuguese military operations in Angola?

4. Is the government fully satisfied that none of the Portuguese airmen trained in Canada under Canadian mutual aid have been sent to Angola?

Answer by: **Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):**

1. Canadian policy in respect of the supply of mutual aid to its NATO allies, including Portugal, was stated by the Prime Minister on June 22 in reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Essex East, and by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on June 28 in reply to starred question No. 431.