

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—LOCATION OF AIR TRANSPORTABLE
COMBAT GROUP—MEDITERRANEAN FORCE**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence for the purpose of clarification. Yesterday when in his statement on motions he referred to an air transportable combat group, was he referring to a tactical air transportable group which would be stationed in Europe or did he imply a strategic air transportable group, part or all of which might be stationed in Canada?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): No, the plan I had in mind was the combat group stationed in Europe, with Ace Mobile Force, as a matter of fact.

Mr. MacLean: Would the minister tell us whether Canada was asked to contribute to the multi-national NATO force being set up by NATO in the Mediterranean and, if so, what decision if any has been reached by the government?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): No, we were not asked to contribute to what is known as the on-call force in the Mediterranean. This was one of the subjects raised at the last meeting, not this particular one. The question which arose last Wednesday was concerned with the political control over the decisions to use that force, but Canada is not participating in the operation.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**BURNABY, B.C.—WORK LOAD FOLLOWING
SATURDAY DELIVERY CANCELLATION**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General arising from news of yet another spontaneous strike on the part of postal workers, this time in Burnaby, British Columbia. Will the minister say what reply he is making to these workers, who are fed up with the flood of mail which has engulfed them every Monday morning since Saturday delivery was cancelled?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Our officers in Vancouver are discussing the matter with the discontented postmen. It is not a general condition. I do not know what their particular objections are, but we are in the process of finding out.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Mr. Macquarrie: Will the minister say whether the statement made by the Deputy Postmaster General as reported in the C.B.C. news, that the post office is considering abolishing home delivery, is to be taken as the Postmaster General's method of reducing the burdens of the postmen?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That was my question, Mr. Speaker. I was astounded, too.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wellington.

Mr. Hees: I have a question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Hales: I have the floor, George.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: Always willing to give way to a sensible Conservative.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): My supplementary question is directed to the Postmaster General. In order to ensure that Canadians receive a good mail service, is the hon. gentleman considering a return to the six-day delivery system?

Mr. Kierans: We are not considering returning to six-day delivery, and I wish to deny that the Deputy Postmaster General made any such statement about home delivery in Toronto yesterday. The question was raised: Is the department considering abolishing home delivery? And the deputy minister said, no.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): My supplementary is directed to the Postmaster General, Mr. Speaker. Since a letter sent from the House of Commons post office on May 22 arrived in Campbellford, Ontario, 160 miles away, six days later on May 28, travelling a little more than one mile an hour—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has already made his point. I do not think that was a supplementary question.

Mr. Hees: My supplementary is approaching, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope it will come faster than at one mile an hour.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.