

Inquiries of the Ministry

satisfactory conclusion of the situation in the Middle East in what I might call an armistice, I would ask the Prime Minister this question. What is the situation now existing in respect of the reconstitution of a peace keeping force, has the government of Canada offered to the United Nations directly or indirectly the services of a mobile peace keeping force, and if so, in what numbers?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question of the reconstitution of UNEF does not arise because that force has been disbanded. Whether the United Nations security council will request the establishment of a new observation group or peace force, or whether they will request the enlargement of the existing United Nations truce organization will depend upon decisions taken at the security council. They are at the moment considering resolutions which will have a bearing on this. No request has been made of the Canadian government for participation in any force because there is no force in being except UNTSO, and we are already participating in UNTSO.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. With respect to the two resolutions which are now before the security council, one introduced by the Americans, which I believe incorporates in part the Canadian resolution, and the other by the Soviet union, I should like to ask the Prime Minister what position Canada will take with regard to these two resolutions. Also, can we have some assurance from the government that the Canadian representative at the United Nations will oppose any resolution which would require Israel to withdraw to its previous boundaries without a guarantee as to its security and its access to the open sea?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, it is not possible for me to say what stand we will take in respect of any particular resolution before the security council. I understand that at least one or two of these resolutions are being re-examined in the light of the current situation. This does not apply to the Canadian resolution, which is still on the table. One of the resolutions, that is the United States resolution, has an element in it which could effect a withdrawal, but I gather it is being examined this morning, as is the Soviet resolution. Until we know exactly what resolution is being considered at the security council I think

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

it is impossible for me to answer my hon. friend's question.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the security council is in the mood to order a cease fire in the Middle East, would the Canadian government give consideration to introducing a resolution calling for a cease fire in Viet Nam?

Mr. Pearson: My hon. friend knows of course that the situations are not in any way parallel.

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL

PROCLAMATION OF JULY 3 AS PUBLIC
HOLIDAY TO CELEBRATE
CONFEDERATION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, may I state, in reply to certain questions which have been asked in the house recently, that an order in council has been passed proclaiming Monday, July 3, 1967 as a public holiday throughout Canada to mark the centennial observance of Confederation day, which this year falls on a Saturday.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question in that connection. I notice the Prime Minister said "Confederation day". I thought July 1 was still Dominion day. Has the government changed that by order in council?

[Later:]

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not know whether the Prime Minister heard the question I asked a while ago. I now ask him specifically, in view of the fact that the statutes of Canada refer to July 1 as Dominion day and he this morning called it Confederation day, does this mean more chiselling away of part of our heritage, when the government refers to this as Confederation day without a decision of parliament?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I really cannot answer such a picayune, chiselling question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the Prime Minister this question, which is not to be answered by facetious attempts at wit. Is the "Dominion" in Dominion day a dirty word now?

An hon. Member: It could be.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A shameful answer.