

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is it the position of the government that the maritime transportation unions trustee board is a quasi judicial board, or is it an administrative board with power to act on the basis of facts and recommendations of other tribunals and bodies such as the Norris commission and the Canadian Labour Congress?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I would hesitate to give what appears to be a legal opinion on this matter. The law is there, and the trustees are operating under the law that was passed by this parliament.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question. Are they acting under the law as they interpret it, or as this parliament interprets it?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CYPRUS—POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION
IN PEACE KEEPING FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): In view of the statement made by the foreign secretary of the United Kingdom while in Ottawa, could I ask the Prime Minister if he would give the house an assurance that no Canadian troops will be sent to Cyprus unless they are under the aegis of the United Nations? Will the right hon. gentleman also assure the house that before any such action is taken there will be full consultation in the house, and the approval of this chamber sought?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): In view of the hon. gentleman's question and the interest which this whole matter has aroused, perhaps I could make a short statement which would answer the question and possibly add one or two other pieces of information.

As far as sending Canadian troops to Cyprus is concerned, no decision has been taken by the government. It may be premature to speculate on the circumstances surrounding a possible Canadian contribution to a peace keeping force at a time when the whole matter is under discussion in the security council of the United Nations.

It is clear, however, that before the Canadian government would decide to provide a force for peace keeping purposes certain requirements would have to be met. First, we would have to be satisfied that the composition and terms of reference of the force were such as to contribute to peace and stability in the area. Second, we would not wish the commitment of the force to be of

[Mr. MacEachen.]

indefinite duration. In addition, we would wish to ensure that the choice of a mediator and his terms of reference would be such as to lead to the expectation that a solution to the dispute in Cyprus might be found within a reasonable time. Third, the arrangements would, of course, have to be acceptable to the government of Cyprus in accordance with its constitutional procedure. Fourth, there should be an association of the force with the United Nations. Finally, if a request is made involving the use of substantial numbers of Canadians abroad, we would bring the matter before parliament before any final decision is taken.

Mr. Douglas: Would the Prime Minister care to clarify exactly what he means by the phrase "an association with the United Nations"? Would any Canadian peace keeping force which might be sent be under the control and direction of the United Nations?

Mr. Pearson: The matter is under consideration today by the United Nations security council, and I would not wish to say anything which might complicate that consideration. The hon. gentleman knows, of course, that there could be a connection with the United Nations security council which would make the operation of any force quite impossible. On the other hand, there could be an association which would be most important and valuable and which would permit the operation of a peace keeping force. It is that kind of association we would support.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Could the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs make any statement to the house which would throw new light on the situation as it is developing around the Cyprus crisis, or on the arrangements which are presently being worked out in the United Nations with regard to it?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The Prime Minister has suggested that I deal with this question. The security council began its consideration of this matter yesterday afternoon. The council met again this morning when statements were made by the delegations of the Soviet union and the United States. I understand there may be before the security council a recommendation of the secretary general, as well as proposals put forward by the United Kingdom. Until these have been disposed of there is nothing more that can be said now.

Mr. Thompson: A supplementary question. This is related only indirectly to the subject we have been discussing, but I am sure we are all concerned about it. Is there anything