

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

give assistance in such a case as this. As I stated in the house yesterday, we cannot now rely on the embassy of the United Kingdom, but we have had reconfirmation of the arrangement with the United States in the past few hours; indeed, the direct statement from the department of state of the United States government that that government will assume responsibility for the protection and evacuation of Canadians from Iraq if that becomes necessary. The picture today, I am very happy to report, is much clearer than it was yesterday.

With respect to the second part of the hon. member's question, according to what information we have available, there has been no report of any molestation of Canadian nationals during the present crisis in Iraq. A report received this morning from the United Nations secretariat states that it has received a report from Mr. Milton Gregg to the effect that all personnel of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Iraq, including their dependents, are safe. This group includes one other Canadian, Mr. L. W. Reiman.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask a supplementary question. Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs in a position now to report whether or not any word has been received from our mission in Beirut as to the situation confronting some 147 Canadians in that country?

**Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac):** I have nothing further to add to the reply to a somewhat similar question yesterday.

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT  
BY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs clarify the statement he made last night on television to the effect—and I quote from the text of the statement as issued by his department—that:

We have instructed our representative at the United Nations to support every constructive measure that is put before the United Nations for the attainment of the objectives of the United States for the Middle East.

**Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to reply to that question. I feel sure that the context of that statement will indicate that it is related to the statement I made in the house yesterday that our representative at the security council was instructed to support any constructive measure. The United States has put before the security council a resolution which is being discussed today by the council to the effect that the security council be requested to take such measures

to stabilize adequately, in the opinion of the United Nations, the situation in Lebanon to the end that the military forces of the United States will be withdrawn. That is what I was referring to.

ALASKA—PROPOSED HIGHWAY FROM U.S.  
VIA ALBERTA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the report in the *Financial Post* of July 12 to the effect that Alberta highways minister Taylor flew to Washington some time ago to encourage Washington to build a link to Alaska from the United States via Alberta and the Alaska highway, and in view of the fact that this proposal is in opposition to the proposals being made by the government of British Columbia, would the minister inform the house if these proposals by the representative of a province are being made after consultation with the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Is this procedure regular, according to protocol?

**Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I received notice of this question after coming into the house. I shall take it as notice.

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** My question is in the same vein but not exactly the same as that of my deskmate. I wonder if the Secretary of State for External Affairs would care to comment on a report in the *Financial Post* that a bill has been presented to the United States Senate providing for the sharing between Canada and the United States of the \$125 million that would be involved in the paving of the Alaska highway. Has the Canadian government made any commitment that it would share in this very large venture?

**Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, Bill S4097 was introduced recently in the United States Senate by an individual senator on his own behalf, not on behalf of the United States administration. The Canadian government was not consulted.

As to the substance of the proposal contained in the bill, careful examination will have to be given to it before any comment is made. However, hon. members may be interested in knowing that some discussions have taken place between a Canadian interdepartmental committee and the United States Alaska international rail and highway commission concerning improved transportation facilities between the Pacific northwest of the United States and Alaska. I should like to emphasize that these discussions are merely exploratory at this time.