

Inquiries of the Ministry

another very serious crisis area in the world situation. Without going into the details as to cost and into the other arrangements which are obviously going to have to be worked out, suffice it to say that it is gratifying to note that Canada is again carrying her share of responsibility in the preservation of peace in the world.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the members of this group desire to express their support for the announcement which the Secretary of State for External Affairs has just made to the effect that Canada is going to contribute to the United Nations peace keeping functions in Yemen. Canada has a good record of contributing to peace keeping forces in various parts of the world, and I am sure that in this case we will maintain our good record.

I wish to congratulate the government on having accepted this responsibility, and to say that as far as this group are concerned we shall always give our support to any contribution which Canada may make through serving under the United Nations for the maintenance of peace throughout the world and supplying part of a world peace force.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO SUMMER RECESS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Prime Minister is in a position at this time to give the house any idea as to the general plans for the session. I recall that a couple of weeks ago in the course of a speech in the house he referred to the fact that certain things would be done in this portion of the session. What are the plans in general as to the continuance of the session, and is he in a position to say whether we are going to carry on throughout the summer and into the fall in order to complete the legislative program?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is our hope and indeed our purpose to take action on the proposals that are now on the order paper and those which will be put on the order paper next week before thinking of a recess. Whether that hope will be realized I do not know, because it is a matter for the house to decide. It is hoped, however, that we can deal with this legislative program by the middle or end of July, and if that could be done I think it would be desirable to have a recess then and come back in the autumn. Whether that will be possible will depend on the progress we make in the house on the program which is before the house.

[Mr. Thompson.]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister indicate what are the pieces of legislation that will be placed on the order paper next week?

Mr. Pearson: I cannot at the moment, but I hope to be able to satisfy the hon. gentleman's very understandable curiosity early next week. We hope to put some additional items on the order paper by the early part of next week, and that will be the program we hope to complete before we think of a recess.

Mr. Knowles: Will that include the pension legislation?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

WEST GERMANY—MILITARY AID TO
AFRICAN COUNTRIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. My question is based on newspaper reports to the effect that the West German government confirmed yesterday that it had been giving secret military aid to seven African countries, and its admission that the veil of secrecy had harmed West Germany. Can the minister give the house any information with respect to these reports and with respect to the government's attitude toward this secret military action on the part of one of its NATO allies?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite certain of the purport of the question asked by the hon. member for Kootenay West, which relates to the supply of military aid by the West German government to several independent African countries. I have, however, seen the press reports according to which the German government announced details of this program yesterday.

We have not as yet received any information about this development from our embassy in Bonn. When we do we will no doubt wish to see whether there is any aspect of the arrangements which would be of direct interest to Canada although, on the basis of the press reports, I am doubtful that this will prove to be the case. I note from these reports that the German government has stressed that this aid was granted as the result of direct requests from the countries concerned to help them maintain internal order and security.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs