Inquiries of the Ministry

before this house a copy of all studies done by the Glassco commission in respect of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Fisher: May I move this on behalf of my hon. friend?

(Translation):

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. member who has introduced this motion, I suggest that it stand.

(Text):

Motion stands.

CONTRACTS WITH OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS, FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Motion No. 53-Mr. Knowles:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of the contracts entered into with Mr. D. C. H. Stanley, Mr. M. P. O'Connell and Mr. G. R. Conway, under treasury board minute T.B. 610618, dated May 2, 1963, and a copy of the contract entered into with Mr. R. J. Anderson, under treasury board minute T.B. 610952, dated May 17, 1963.

Motion agreed to.

UNITED NATIONS

CONGO-ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and ask him whether the announcement made by U Thant that the United Nations force is to be withdrawn from the Congo by the end of this year means that the situation in that country is so stable that the danger has passed, or does it signify that the U.S.S.R. and other members of the United Nations who have refused to pay their proportionate share of the cost of these peace keeping operations have in fact won their point and established a financial veto?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Medicine Hat had given me notice of his intention to ask a somewhat similar question, and in acknowledging this question from the Leader of the Opposition I wish to let the hon, gentleman know that I have received notice of his intention to ask a question.

As the house is aware, the end of the Katanga secession removed the need for large numbers of United Nations troops in the Congo. In these circumstances it is my understanding that the secretary general, deeply concerned about the heavy drain on United Nations financial resources, hopes to withdraw United Nations forces from the Congo as soon as possible. The Canadian government both shares his concern and supports his objective in this regard.

With regard to the last portion of the Leader of the Opposition's question, as my hon. friend knows, at the special assembly of the United Nations, arrangements were made for the financial obligations arising out of the peace keeping operations of the United Nations in the Congo and UNEF until the end of 1963. What would have been the situation in respect of the Congo after 1963 but for the financial position in which the United Nations has found itself remain a conjecture. Undoubtedly the situation would have been easier if all member states of the organization had paid up both their normal assessments and what we believe to be their obligations with regard to peace keeping operations. It remains simply to say this, that the operations in the Congo of the peace keeping force of the United Nations, notwithstanding very great difficulties, represents the great utility, the great purpose and the indispensability of the United Nations in situations like this.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Aside from the financial commitments respecting peace keeping operations, my understanding is that the secretary general, U Thant, made a plea yesterday in Geneva for further belt tightening in other operations of the United Nations. A few days ago the minister made a statement to the house which indicated that all the financial commitments of the United Nations for the balance of this year had been arranged for. I wonder whether he could tell us why the secretary general is now making a plea for more belt tightening in other operations of the organization?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker. the hon, gentleman also gave me notice of his intention to ask this question, and I wish now to reply to it. When I reported to the house on June 25 about developments at the fourth special session of the United Nations general assembly I was referring exclusively to the problems of financing the peace keeping operations in the Middle East and the Congo. The arrangements made at the special session had to do mainly with the problem of finding funds for those operations for the six month period ending December 31, 1963. No progress was made on the problem resulting from the refusal of the Soviet union and certain other states to pay their share of the peace keeping assessments.

[Mr. Douglas.]