

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister will agree to such an investigation.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will look into the matter, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONGO—SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am sure the minister joins all of us in this house in our concern for the safety of Canadians who are presently in the Stanleyville area of the communist backed rebel regime in the eastern Congo, particularly those of us who know some of the people personally. Does the minister have any information for us about the safety of the five members of the McMillan family and other Canadians who may be held by rebels in the area?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the house shares my hon. friend's concern about the safety of Canadians in this particular area. This morning the Canadian embassy in Leopoldville reported, in response to a telegram sent from the Department of External Affairs on Saturday, that the local representative in Leopoldville of the mission of which Rev. Mr. McMillan is a member, reports that to the best of his organization's knowledge Mr. and Mrs. McMillan and their six children are all in Boyulu, a mission post about 100 miles east of Stanleyville. The embassies of the United States and Great Britain are both assuming from these reports that the entire McMillan family is still in this community. None of these sources is aware of the information contained in the radio report of last Saturday. That is the only information I have at the moment.

VIET NAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRESENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the deteriorating political situation in Viet Nam and the very recent communication the minister has had with the secretary of state of the United States, can he give the house a report on just what the situation is there?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend

the member for New Westminster gave me notice of his intention to ask a similar question. I can only say that the events of the past week end have, of course, been of great concern. On the basis of recent information it would appear that General Khanh's government has successfully overcome the recent challenge to his authority, and that this has taken place without bloodshed, loss of life or violence. I had the opportunity of discussing this matter with Mr. Rusk when he kindly visited me this morning in Windsor, but I do not believe there is anything more that I can publicly state now.

CYPRUS—REPORTED DIFFICULTY IN TRANSPORTING RED CROSS SUPPLIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs could say a word about the situation in Cyprus. There is a good deal of concern about the fact that there appears to be a blockade with regard to Turkish Cypriots, so that the United Nations are having to use helicopters to get Turkish Red Cross supplies to the people in Kokkina. In view of the fact that a short time ago the Canadian government made money available for Red Cross supplies for the people of Cyprus, are the Red Cross continuing to experience difficulty in getting freedom of movement and freedom of access so that Red Cross supplies can be taken to needy people whether they are Turkish Cypriots or Greek Cypriots?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I have not been informed that the Red Cross have had continuing difficulty. There have been occasions when the Red Cross and other bodies have encountered difficulty, but this has generally been corrected.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

CONFERENCE OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL RESPECTING REPATRIATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Can the minister tell the house whether any date has yet been set for the meeting between himself and the attorneys general of the provinces to discuss the repatriation of the Canadian constitution?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the dates of the 1st and 2nd of October have been set aside for that purpose.