

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

grateful. It is not a question of changing the status of forces agreement but of seeking to improve the authority of the force itself. This is something which comes within the scope of the directives given to the force by the secretary general.

**Mr. Douglas:** Has the minister asked the secretary general of the United Nations to secure from Greece and Turkey some assurance that there will be no military intervention if Canada continues to play her role in the peace keeping force?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Not only have we approached the secretary general, but we have also been in touch with the governments concerned.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask what was the reply?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The secretary general indicated that he has already taken this course himself. He is doing so again I believe in the security council this afternoon. I may say that at the recent NATO ministerial meetings this was one of the subjects which were vigorously discussed with both Greece and Turkey.

## GHANA—HOLDING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WITHOUT TRIAL

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he has received a communication from one of those in Ghana who had been in prison without trial for more than two years, regarding the imprisonment without trial and without benefit of habeas corpus of about 1,000 political prisoners in that country.

I recognize immediately the delicate nature of this matter, but in view of the interest shown by Canadians in the denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the United States in the last few days has the Prime Minister been in touch with the President of Ghana through the high commissioner from Ghana with a view to pointing out that this type of injustice is not in keeping with the responsibilities of commonwealth membership?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I have read in the press that the letter to which the right hon. gentleman refers has been sent to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and that copies have been sent to other commonwealth prime ministers. I have not received such a letter, or had not up to the end of this morning. If and when

it comes I shall have to decide what I should do.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the Prime Minister tell us whether other prime ministers of the commonwealth have communicated with Canada in this regard, and whether Canada does not feel in the circumstances that on its own initiative it should direct the nation's voice to Ghana in this regard?

**Mr. Pearson:** I have had no communication from any other commonwealth government on this matter as yet.

## DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

## SASKATCHEWAN—FEDERAL CO-OPERATION WITH NEW INDIAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie):** I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In view of the gratuitous lecture which the leader of the New Democratic party saw fit to give to the United States over the week end, could the minister assure the house that his department will co-operate completely with the new ministry of Indian and Metis affairs to be established in the province which the New Democratic party leader administered for 17 years, to deal with a situation which Premier Thatcher this week compared with the treatment of negroes in Selma, Alabama—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Would the hon. member put this question on the order paper? In view of the feeling which presently exists I should like the consent of the house to call upon the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona, who has an important question to raise.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## EXTENSION OF GREETINGS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Terry Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona):** I rise on a question of privilege to point out to hon. members of this house that there are lovely patches of green showing here and there about the chamber as a reminder that this is a great day for the Irish and for all of us who are of Irish extraction.

I do not want the day to pass without wishing everyone a very happy St. Patrick's day or without repeating that old Gaelic cry "Erin go bragh".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.