

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the minister say whether representations have been made to Washington asking that such flights be stopped?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I would not confirm statements of that kind which appeared in this morning's press. I would think this is rather wild speculation. As I pointed out to the house yesterday, our views with regard to this incident have been made known to the United States government.

**Mr. Argue:** Has this been done through official channels; through our ambassador in Washington, for instance?

**Mr. Green:** All our views are made known through official channels.

**COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS****INQUIRY AS TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he can outline Canada's proposals for economic assistance to African countries, as mentioned by the Prime Minister last week in London and repeated again today in radio news broadcasts?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of the house will be pleased that at the commonwealth prime ministers' conference in London consideration is being given to the possibility of increasing the present level of economic assistance provided by commonwealth countries to Africa. Hon. members will appreciate that since consideration of the proposal made by our own Prime Minister in London has not yet been completed it would not be appropriate for me to give any detailed account at the present time.

I can say, however, that this government has been concerned for some time about the desirability of the commonwealth countries providing the new and emerging nations of Africa with additional economic assistance. What is contemplated is economic aid over and above what commonwealth countries now contribute in Africa. As we all know, Canada at the present time has a program of technical assistance to commonwealth countries in Africa amounting to about \$500,000 each year. In addition, of course, the African members of the commonwealth share in the commonwealth scholarship and fellowship plan whereby young people from the various African universities come to universities in Canada and the other nations

[Mr. Argue.]

of the commonwealth, and possibly Canadian students go to some of the universities in these African countries.

We believe that this initiative in taking further steps to help the nations of the African continent is a very important one, particularly because of the economic and political future of that continent. At the present time I think Africa is the most important continent in the world from the point of view of potential development and potential changes, and with the new nations emerging from time to time it is vitally important so far as the commonwealth is concerned. Nigeria, for example, will become independent on October 1, and I believe that the prime ministers' conference now meeting in London has agreed that Nigeria will be accepted as a full member of the commonwealth. This is certainly a continent to watch and a continent to which all possible assistance should be given.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a supplementary question. Will this plan, a general outline of which has been given to the house, be related in any way, as is the case with the Colombo plan, to any other country outside the commonwealth as a donor?

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Speaker, we would hope that other countries would participate in this program, and also possibly the United Nations.

**INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING APARTHEID**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and ask if he is aware of the report from London on "News Roundup" this morning concerning the refusal of South Africa to discuss apartheid at the commonwealth prime ministers' conference, and of the intention of the Afro-Asians to publicly denounce South Africa and vote her out of the commonwealth? Is there any substance to this report, and has the minister anything to say about it?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I believe this is another case of speculation. There has been a good deal of press comment in the United Kingdom and, of course, in Canada as well concerning the question of South Africa in so far as it has been dealt with by the prime ministers' conference. I was in communication with our own Prime Minister this morning and there were informal talks held yesterday on this question. These talks have