

Inquiries of the Ministry

propriate to discuss with you the matters outlined above.

This telegram was addressed to the trustees and sent by Mr. Hall.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. What are the minister's views on the contents of this telegram sent by Mr. Paul Hall?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting telegram.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CYPRUS—TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PEACE
KEEPING FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I wonder whether he can give the house a report on the role which has been established for the Canadian contingent of the United Nations peace keeping force in Cyprus; whether he can tell the house what guide lines or terms of reference have been agreed to by the United Nations; whether it is true that it has been agreed that Canadian troops will not be allowed to disarm civilians carrying arms; and whether any other stipulations in the terms of reference have yet been agreed to?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the function of the United Nations force in Cyprus, in accordance with the resolution of the security council of March 4, is to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and as necessary to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. The role of the Canadian contingent, and of the forces contributed by other countries, is to undertake such duties as may be ordered by the commander of the force to carry out this mission.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question. The minister has missed part of my question. Is it correct that Canadian troops are not permitted to disarm civilians carrying weapons in Cyprus?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, the disarming of civilians carrying weapons in either of the communities will not, according to the guide lines, be a function of the United Nations force.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is too bad.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs has agreed with this stipulation on Canada's behalf?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker. This does not mean, however, that the forces will not be allowed, as would be the situation in the case of any police force, to defend themselves.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): May I ask a supplementary question. Have any precise directives yet been given to the Canadian forces in Cyprus by the U.N. command?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The acting commander is in charge of the United Nations international force. The instructions which will be given to the forces will go from him and from the commander, General Gyani, who takes up his responsibilities on the 21st of this month.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he does not feel that the denial to the Canadian forces of their right to disarm guerrillas in fact emasculates the Canadian force and places the force in a position of great danger.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the right hon. gentleman. This was one of the questions which were the subject of considerable discussion prior to the decision of the government to answer the call of the secretary general. It was one of the subjects which I discussed with him a week ago tonight in his office at the United Nations. From all the information available to the secretary general and to others, it seemed in the circumstances that one of the best ways to preserve order was to leave to the government and to the communities concerned these responsibilities at this stage. I believe that if the force can establish peace and order, as thus far it seems to have been able to do, this would be a better arrangement. The secretary general has indicated that from time to time the situation will have to be re-examined in the light of events.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs has indicated that the United Nations commander General Gyani has not yet taken over, under what precise directives are the Canadian forces there now acting?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): They are acting, Mr. Speaker, under the instructions being given to them by the secretary general. He has provided, in the guide lines, which have been made public, the following: First of all, he has stated to the security council that the U.N. force in Cyprus is in being; second, that troops of the Canadian contingent have been taken under command of the acting