

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## UNITED NATIONS

CONGO—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING DEATHS OF  
U.N. SOLDIERS

## ANGOLA—INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN POSITION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister care to say what is Canada's position at NATO with regard to Angola forced labour conditions and discrimination against the Angolans by the Portuguese?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, so far as Angola is concerned, there was a resolution in the United Nations on April 20 which called upon the government of Portugal to consider urgently the introduction of measures of reform in Angola, and asked the president of the general assembly to appoint a subcommittee to examine the statements made before the general assembly concerning Angola, to receive further statements and to conduct inquiries and report to the general assembly. This resolution was sponsored by 36 Afro-Asian states. In the vote Canada supported the motion and took a stand which is very clear.

**Mr. Argue:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister say whether the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs will raise this question at the NATO meeting? Would the Prime Minister comment on a press report to the effect that our minister of external affairs has decided, at least for the time being, to drop the matter?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I have no observations to make on press reports. All I can say is that was the stand that Canada took on April 20, and our position is unchanged in that regard.

**Mr. Argue:** The Prime Minister cannot say whether Canada will raise this question at the NATO meeting?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I think the NATO meeting has concluded. The hon. gentleman, as is frequently the case, is again somewhat late.

**Mr. Argue:** Could the Prime Minister explain to the house why the Secretary of State for External Affairs did not make a prepared speech on this subject?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not sure that the hon. member is asking about something within the administrative responsibility of the minister in question. I rather think not.

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Vancouver East asked me a question as to whether the Canadian government had communicated with the United Nations regarding recent attacks involving the deaths of a number of United Nations soldiers in the Congo and whether representations had been made so that those responsible would be brought to trial.

The United Nations, without the need for any prompting or representation from member states, has undertaken an investigation of the tragic circumstances of the recent incident in which a number of Ghanaian soldiers and several officers of British and Swedish nationality were killed.

I think this is an occasion upon which to express our sympathy to the government and army of Ghana for their losses and express our admiration for the substantial and effective contribution Ghana has made to the United Nations operations in the Congo. The conduct of operations there and the difficulties encountered are matters which come to the attention of the secretary general's advisory committee on the Congo. Canada is represented on this committee, and Canadian views are expressed as the occasion requires.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## LAOS—INQUIRY AS TO CURRENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. D. McPhillips (Victoria, B.C.):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I wonder whether the Prime Minister could bring the house up to date on the present situation in Laos.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the international supervisory commission arrived in Laos on May 8. The commissioners and some of their advisers are in Vientiane. Representatives of India, Canada and Poland are also proceeding to Xieng Khouang, the headquarters of Souvana Phouma. As I indicated on Monday, the first task of the commission will be, and I quote from the message of the co-chairmen of the commission on May 6:

—to fix the cease fire in accordance with the understanding of the belligerent parties in Laos and to exercise supervision and control over it.

Canada will be represented at the international conference on Laos which is being held in Geneva on May 12. It will then have an opportunity to make known its views on the supervisory arrangements which may be necessary in the future.