

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is now asking a question of a general nature, similar to the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for the Northwest Territories. It was suggested at that time that questions along these lines might well be placed on the order paper.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I rephrase my question and ask the Minister of Justice whether this matter is being studied by officials of his department and the minister himself.

**Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, one aspect of this matter is being looked at in context of another law. It has also been suggested that we might possibly extend the terms of reference of the Ouimet committee, in order that it may look into this matter if that is possible at this stage.

[Translation]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

VAL D'OR, QUE.—U.S. REQUEST THAT AIRBASE BE MAINTAINED

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence.

Did the minister have discussions, or is he having discussions at the present time, with the United States authorities concerning the continued operation of the Val d'Or air base?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

RWANDA—CANADIAN AIRLIFT FOR EVACUATION OF KATANGAN TROOPS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister advise the house what is the commitment of this government to provide an airlift to Rwanda for the evacuation of Katangan and mercenary troops from the Congo, and what was the basis of such a decision?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think I should like to take this question as notice.

**Mr. Thompson:** May I direct the question to the Minister of National Defence.

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**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, we have received a request from the International Red Cross which was also presented to Belgium, Great Britain, France and the United States. The purpose of this operation would be to evacuate Katangans who have taken refuge in Rwanda and transport them to Zambia. As the situation now stands we have agreed to commit one Hercules aircraft, which is standing by until we receive a release from the Red Cross.

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister request an assurance that these rebel troops will not be used against Rhodesia, in view of the repeated terrorist incursions into Rhodesia from Zambia?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I will look into that question. I will do one thing today, and that is congratulate my hon. friend on his birthday.

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

**Mr. Churchill:** I thank the minister. I do have another supplementary question, which I will not ask.

[Later:]

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** May I ask the Minister of National Defence a supplementary question related to the minister's answer a few minutes ago concerning the transport of Zambia refugees. Can the minister tell us if these refugees are of African or European origin?

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** They are of African origin.

**TRADE**

ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY GENEVA AGREEMENTS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry whether the government is yet in a position to announce its plans, which have been some weeks in preparation for easing the expected suffering of producers, who produce exclusively for Canadian markets, as a result of the impact of Kennedy round tariff reductions.