

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

back the Secretary of State for External Affairs after his "audacity", as he himself described it, at the United Nations. I should like to ask him, in respect of Israel and the Arab states where there is open conflict what is the present situation concerning the Canadian servicemen in the peace keeping force of the UN? Will their actions be determined by the Canadian government or by other nations? What control will Canada retain over the fate of her troops should a grave emergency arise?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend asked me this question in connection with the Cyprus force. My reply now is the same as I gave then. Canada, through its parliament, has committed these troops to the United Nations force. So long as our troops are there, they are under the command of the commander of the United Nations emergency force.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the Canadian government have no control whatsoever over the manner in which Canadian troops will be used by the United Nations?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** My hon. friend's question in this context is not a fair one. He knows perfectly well that the government of Canada and this parliament can call back its troops at any time from an engagement to which they have been committed through the United Nations. However, so long as they are part of such a force, necessarily they must be under the command of the commander of the force.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****BELL ISLAND, NFLD.—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING CLOSING OF MINE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Joseph P. O'Keefe (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Could he now tell the house just what is being done to resolve or help alleviate the tragic employment situation on Bell Island in Newfoundland?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the other day the right hon. Leader of the Opposition asked me a question on this point and I said I would ask for a report. I now have a report to the effect that the government has offered its full co-operation and resources to the province of Newfoundland to assist in finding a solution to the employment problems that exist on Bell Island.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

An interdepartmental committee has been established to work with the province on this problem. The committee, under the chairmanship of the executive director of the Atlantic Development Board, includes officials from the Atlantic Development Board, ARDA, and the departments of fisheries, manpower, industry, finance, and mines, energy and resources. This committee has gone into the problem in detail and made a number of visits to Bell Island to investigate the situation on the spot. Representatives of the committee have also made trips to Europe, at the invitation of the premier of Newfoundland, in an attempt to interest European companies in operating the Bell Island mines.

There are certain investigations still going on and no decision has yet been taken by the province as to the future of mine operations on Bell Island. In addition to the above mentioned assistance, the federal government has applied the full manpower mobility measures to the labour force affected and has arranged, through the Canadian Maritime Commission, for lower ferry commuter rates between Bell Island and Newfoundland to assist the mobility of the Bell Island labour force. The A.D.B., through the services of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, has conducted a house to house survey to provide essential information for future measures.

I wish to assure the house that the federal government will continue to work closely with the provincial government on this serious problem.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Would the Prime Minister say what expenditures if any have as yet been made by the federal government? He mentioned what action has been taken, but I should like to know how many jobs have been provided and how many people from Bell Island have been transported elsewhere under the mobility of labour scheme?

**Mr. Pearson:** I will try to secure these statistics.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether any sum of money is being allocated to this committee, in order that it may know what kind of program it can carry out?

**Mr. Pearson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker; of course, there have been expenditures made, but I do not have with me the details concerning this. I will try to secure them.