

Inquiries of the Ministry

disturbance which took place at La Macaza, Quebec, in connection with a peace demonstration held there some two weeks ago?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with the Minister of National Defence, who has been in touch with those concerned. An investigation is being made, and the minister will be in a position to make a statement in a day or two.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question. Can I ask the Prime Minister whether any interviews are being held with those who have made complaints to the press that they were ill treated during this disturbance? It seems to me that a further investigation by the officials of the Department of National Defence hardly meets the situation. I would have hoped from the minister's reply more than a week ago that an independent inquiry would be made as to whether a full investigation should be conducted.

Mr. Pearson: An inquiry is being made by the minister, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the minister's report on the matter will deal with the points raised by my hon. friend.

NATO—NON-PARTICIPATION BY CANADA IN
NAVAL EXERCISE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is Canada fulfilling her obligation to NATO by failing to participate in the NATO naval exercises that are now under way?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): My hon. friend knows that Canada is a country that has fulfilled its obligations to NATO.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask a supplementary question. Has Canada some commitment to the United States that takes prior claim over her obligation to NATO?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): As a former minister of national defence my hon. friend knows the answer to that is clearly no.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask the Minister of National Defence, what is the nature of the naval exercises now being carried on by Canada in conjunction with the United States?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): They are naval exercises for the purpose of improving the co-operation which exists between our two countries, which

[Mr. Douglas.]

has worked so well in the past and will work even better in the future.

Mr. Churchill: Why are we not joining in the NATO exercises?

COLD LAKE, ALTA.—CONTRACT FOR AIRPORT
HEATING SYSTEM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Terry Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister tell us whether the department is about to make changes in the heating system at Cold Lake airport and, if so, if this work is being put out for tender?

Mr. Speaker: This is a question for the order paper.

Mr. Nugent: There is considerable apprehension in Edmonton labour circles that the department is negotiating this, and I think it would relieve public—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona was asking a question that we think is very important, which affects the same city I come from. Communications I have received from Edmonton indicate that a \$2 million contract will be awarded in the next day or so to a contractor in the Cold Lake area, and that contractors in the city of Edmonton have not been given an opportunity to bid for this work. Surely we can expect an answer to a question as important as that on orders of the day.

Mr. Speaker: I must say that I did not quite appreciate the urgency, and the matter of two days makes it reasonably urgent. Perhaps if the minister has the answer he could give it.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to see the Minister of National Defence has this drawn to his attention.

Mr. Nugent: If I might be allowed, when I was speaking and trying to explain the question, Your Honour started to say this was a question for the order paper; and while I was trying to explain the urgency Your Honour recognized someone else. I sat here for half an hour trying to get the floor while Your Honour recognized member after member further down the chamber. While I do not want to make an issue of this, it does