

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: Well, this position is being taken only in very general terms and indicates that we did, in the past, pursue certain peace keeping or surveillance roles in the Vietnamese conflict. We do not reject the idea in advance. We would be prepared to contribute anything that would be possible and desirable.

Mr. Stanfield: Would it be accurate to say the policy of the government of Canada would be to consider a possible role for Canada in peace keeping operations?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, that would be a good expression of our position.

Mr. Stanfield: I have just one further question, Mr. Speaker. Have there been consultations between the United States or the Secretary General of the United Nations and the government of Canada with regard to such a possible role for Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Certainly none of which I am aware. If any have taken place they must be only in very general terms, because we have not discussed this as a matter of policy yet. We have just taken the general line I indicated, that we would consider any such request.

[Later:]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): In connection with the momentous decision made last night by the President of the United States to discontinue the bombing of North Viet Nam, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether there was any prior consultation with Canada before the announcement was made. Second, I should like to ask whether there was consultation with Australia, New Zealand and the United States concerning what action Canada might take in connection with providing not only an inspection corps in Viet Nam but also forces to preserve the peace in the event that agreement is arrived at in Paris.

Mr. Trudeau: In answer to the first part of the question, there was no consultation. This is a decision which the United States government has made without our overt help. In respect of the second part of the question I can only repeat what I said previously. We have not been the subject of any specific request yet. Until such a request is made I do not know what position we will take.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I note that the Prime Minister accentuated the words "specific request". Has there been any general request

[Mr. Stanfield.]

that Canadians should be made available as a force to maintain the peace?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. There has been none that I know of, but like the readers of the press we surmise that something might develop on this front. We have been considering what we would do if such a request were made. But as I say there has been no specific request or no general assertion by any one country that they would want to see us in there. There has been nothing that has come to us in the form of a request.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the hon. Prime Minister. Would Canada consider making a contribution to peace in Viet Nam by ending Canadian complicity in this war?

NATIONAL SECURITY**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister arising out of the information he gave the house some time ago that he expected to meet with members of the royal commission on security. I think he said this would happen yesterday. Did the right hon. gentleman meet with them, and did he receive their report yesterday?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, I did meet with the members of the commission, I think it was Wednesday. I thanked the commissioners very much for the work they had done, very important work for the future of democracy in this country.

Hon. members will understand that the report is a classified document and contains information the publication of which would be detrimental to the security of Canada. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, only after careful study of the report will we decide what sections of it can be published. Until that time it would not be our intention to comment in any way on the report itself.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand, then, that the report has been received; and do I understand from the Prime Minister that, subject to those parts of the report which in the government's opinion it would be detrimental to publish, the government will consider publishing the parts which should be brought to the attention of parliament?