

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 9, 1967

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

MAIN ESTIMATES, 1967-68

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1968, was presented by Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the house.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RUMANIA—TABLING OF LETTERS RESPECTING CONSULAR AND CLAIMS MATTERS

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table exchanges of letters with the government of Rumania dealing with consular matters and claims. These follow the exchange of letters tabled in the house on April 4 concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Rumania.

Mr. Speaker: Has the minister leave to table these documents?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GREECE—REPRESENTATIONS AS TO RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister, and ask him whether the government of Canada has made representations to His Majesty King Constantine II of the Hellenes for the immediate release of all elected political representatives and other citizens unconstitutionally arrested, and for the immediate restoration of the constitutional rights of the Greek people, their parliamentary procedures, and their right to schedule free elections.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Of course we have an embassy in Athens which is keeping in touch with developments, but we have made no representations to the government of Greece of the kind suggested by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Starr: Then I would ask whether the government is considering withholding the \$1.5 million granted to the Greek army as economic aid under the NATO defence assistance program until such action as I suggest has been taken.

Mr. Pearson: That is another question. I shall be glad to look into it and see whether in fact those are the accurate figures.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has received any information as to the attitude of the government of Great Britain in these circumstances.

Mr. Pearson: Perhaps this information is available in the Department of External Affairs. I have not seen it as yet, but I will look into that aspect.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or to the Prime Minister. Is the government aware of cases in which Canadians of Greek origin are currently being detained in Greece and, if so, is any action being taken to alleviate their situation?

Mr. Pearson: I am informed we have no knowledge of any Canadians of Greek origin being detained, but we shall make direct inquiries.

VIET NAM—REPORTED REFUSAL OF CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTRE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding a press statement attributed to his parliamentary secretary to the effect that Saigon had turned down a tentative offer of a children's rehabilitation centre by insisting on a military hospital instead. May I ask whether this statement has reference to the children's rehabilitation centre which was proposed by Dr. Gingras and, I believe, endorsed by the minister?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes. As the hon. member