

medical personnel in South Viet Nam, and certainly we would be prepared to help in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of those two war-ravaged parts of Viet Nam by providing medical personnel.

VIET NAM—CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT—PAYMENT OF CANADIAN EXPENDITURES RESPECTING SUPERVISORY COMMISSION OTHER THAN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF PERSONNEL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the question I ask arises because of the fact that we have a supervisory force in Cyprus and have had for several years. Canada is the only nation that pays all its expenditures connected with that force, totalling some \$3 million a year. Will the extra expenditures over and above pay and allowances for this new force be paid by Canada or by the United Nations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I wish I could join the right hon. gentleman in being so certain that the United Nations will be involved. I take the same view as the spokesman for the New Democratic Party, that it would be very useful if the United Nations could be involved in this matter. But the position at the present time, according to the protocol, is that the pay and allowances of the forces provided by each of the participants in the supervisory force would be met by that country. In other words, this is a contribution by each country to the cause of peace. There is some question about the payment of what might be termed the operating expenses of the commission. Originally, when this was first put to us, it was suggested that we should be prepared to think in terms of putting up, in addition to pay and allowances, 10 per cent of the budget of the commission. I took great exception to this and said that we were not preaching for a call, we did not want to buy our way into this organization. Therefore it appears—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am sure the House would like to know what the minister has in mind and would grant him the opportunity to finish his answer because he is always so terse.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously the minister had not yet reached the terse part of his statement.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have a supplementary question for the minister, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister now proceed to tell us what the answer is?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the right hon. member for Prince Albert wishes to ask the minister a supplementary question, and that will give the minister an opportunity to complete his statement.

• (1500)

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can go as far as to bundle the same way as the hon. gentleman has with the NDP again.

Mr. MacEachen: You should have been here last Thursday. You missed that party.

Oral Questions

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask him this: have we his assurance that Canada will not again be in the same position as it is now in Cyprus, and has been for the last several years, of having to spend millions of dollars a year financing a force there which should have been financed by the United Nations? Has he been in touch with the United Nations for the purpose of ascertaining whether that body is going to co-operate and assure that expenditures are not divided among the several countries making their contribution?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, neither North Viet Nam nor South Viet Nam is a member of the United Nations. They have not been involved in these discussions. It is our hope that the Secretary General of the United Nations might be invited to the international peace conference. In that way we might get the United Nations involved. May I complete the last sentence of my previous statement, Mr. Speaker, namely, that in the protocol which has come to hand today it is suggested that each of the members of the supervisory commission, in addition to paying the pay and allowances of their own personnel, should pay 2 per cent of the budget of the commission.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What is the estimate of that?

Mr. Sharp: The amounts involved are quite small; I do not think that more than some thousands of dollars are involved.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of hon. members are rising to ask supplementaries. Perhaps we could have two or three further supplementaries and then go to the next subject. The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich has a further supplementary.

VIET NAM—ACTION TO SECURE FREEDOM OF LLOYD OPPEL, BELIEVED TO BE HELD NEAR HANOI

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, is the House to take it from the answer given earlier by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that as of the moment we have no assurance of the release of Lloyd Opel?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would have to make inquiries. Perhaps I can then be more re-assuring than I have been.

VIET NAM—CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT—COMPOSITION OF PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since he has seen the cease-fire agreement and the protocols, may I ask him if they envisage the calling of an international conference after the signing of the agreement next Saturday, what nations will be represented at that conference, and is it envisaged from the protocols that such a conference would set up the necessary machinery to which the observers may report violations from time to time, and which can take action upon them?