

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

remain only until the security council has itself taken the measures necessary to maintain peace and security in the area.

It is clear, therefore, that in responding to the appeal of King Hussein the United Kingdom has acted, as did the United States government a few days ago in respect of Lebanon, with due regard to the ultimate authority and responsibility of the United Nations. Mr. Macmillan said:

We are making it clear that if arrangements can be made by the security council to protect the lawful government of Jordan from external threat, the action which we have taken will be brought to an end.

This question will doubtless come before the security council later today. As in the case of the discussions on Lebanon, the Canadian representative to the United Nations is being instructed to consult urgently with the United States and United Kingdom representatives and other members of the security council with the object of devising some formula for United Nations action which will achieve stability in the Middle East, which objective the United States and United Kingdom are seeking to uphold. On being notified of the action the United Kingdom government had taken I gave an assurance of Canada's support in the security council for any resolution which would meet those United Nations aspects which, from the outset, have been an important element in the United Kingdom decision to intervene in Jordan.

With respect to the question as to the urgency of action to be taken on the part of the United Nations to send a force to that area, the stand taken by the government will be that every encouragement and assistance to the council to arrive at a favourable decision in this regard will be advanced by our representative at the United Nations council. Of course, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, there are difficulties in the way. It is not quite as simple as it would appear on its face. There is the possibility, if not the probability, of a veto in the security council. Then when the matter is turned over to the United Nations assembly the decision on the question will depend on whether or not a two-thirds majority can be secured in support of a United Nations force or other direct action being taken by the United Nations.

I might add that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is now on his way to Washington, there to consult with the foreign secretary of the United Kingdom and the Secretary of State of the United States. On Saturday, he will proceed to the United Nations to meet briefly with Mr. Hammarskjold, the secretary general, with a view to further discussing that matter. I need hardly add

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

that everything that Canada can do as a member of the United Nations will be done to assure early action at the United Nations on this matter, to the end that the forces of the United Kingdom, in accordance with the expressed will of the United Kingdom, will be withdrawn as soon as action is taken by the United Nations.

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** If I might, with the permission of the house, be allowed to make a very brief comment, I would say that we in this group are exceedingly disturbed by the action that has been taken to which the Prime Minister has referred. As we are aware of the very grave events occurring in the world today, we express the hope that all countries, particularly those with atomic weapons, will consider the future of the world and will at the United Nations, by discussion amongst themselves, resolve all their differences.

I think intervention by any country in the affairs of any other country, even at the request in some instances of the established government, is a very grave step which must, of course, be taken only after the most serious consideration.

We again express the hope that Canada will use its prestige and good offices at the United Nations to support a settlement through that organization. We acknowledge that the United States and the United Kingdom, in the action it has taken, said that it is interim or temporary action until such time as the United Nations may deal with the situation. We express the hope that United Nations action will be forthcoming soon and that there may be a United Nations police force, which I know is the method that all members of this house would support wholeheartedly as the means of solving this very difficult situation and preventing bloodshed in that area.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the Minister of National Defence whether any consideration is being given or has been given to making available a unit of the Canadian navy, a ship, if necessary under circumstances best known to hon. gentlemen opposite, for the purpose of providing for the safe return to Canada of those Canadians in this troubled area?

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** No request has been made for such a ship to date.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** My question was whether any consideration has been or is being given to the dispatch of such a ship.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Ships of the Royal Canadian Navy are available at all times for emergency purposes.