

arrangement would protect anyone who was concerned with the murder of Pierre Laporte.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, could the minister say, in relation to those who were given safe passage to Cuba, whether any reward has been paid out in respect of their apprehension?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): To the best of my knowledge at the moment, Mr. Speaker, no reward has been paid out.

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YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT OF BILL

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of the statements made by the Canadian Mental Health Association that the proposed Young Offenders Act is, in fact, a Criminal Code for children which is distasteful in its terminology, legalistic in its approach and punitive in its effect, would the minister consider withdrawing the bill and bringing forth a bill that is more in keeping with the reformatory and rehabilitative approaches that the government should take?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the hon. member's question is defective on two grounds. First, it is argumentative and, second, it anticipates an order of the House.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—NUMBER OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL—PRESENCE OF PORTUGAL AND GREECE IN ORGANIZATION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs gave a very comprehensive report on his trip to Europe, but there were one or two matters with which he did not deal. May I first ask him whether or not there was agreement on behalf of Canada that the policy that it had been intended to follow, namely, of reducing our armed forces personnel from 5,000 to 2,500, has now been departed from and that the 5,000 armed force members will be provided?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question of the level of our armed forces did not arise in that connection. We did join with the United States in saying to our NATO partners that there would be no further reductions in our forces in Europe in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Would the minister say whether or not it was decided that Canada would once more return to the 5,000 personnel who were previously in Europe? There is another question that arises, with which the minister might deal when he replies. Can he give the assurance that, at a time when unity is so necessary,

Inquiries of the Ministry

Canada will not take or has not taken any part in moving to eject Greece and Portugal from NATO?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, there is perhaps a little confusion in the right hon. gentleman's mind about the level of our forces in Europe.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No, there is no confusion.

Mr. Sharp: All I want to say is that there was no discussion at these NATO meetings about the level of our forces in Europe, except for the statement made by my colleague the Minister of National Defence that there would be no change in our force structure in Europe in the foreseeable future. On the second point, no country in NATO made any move to eject Greece.

MILITARY INTERVENTION BY PORTUGAL IN GUINEA

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Did the ministers' NATO conference in Brussels have at its disposal the information from the fact-finding committee of the United Nations which alleged there had been serious military intervention by Portugal. Was this matter taken up with Portugal by the ministers present, and did the Secretary of State for External Affairs, representing Canada, raise this question?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the House will be interested to know that a vote was taken last night for the first time in the United Nations Security Council approving by a vote of 11 to zero, with four countries abstaining, a resolution strongly condemning Portugal for its invasion of the Republic of Guinea. At the time of the NATO meeting we did not have any such report before us. I did raise, on behalf of Canada, the question of the site of the next meeting. This is a routine matter generally, but it seemed to me that in light of the developments at the United Nations it might be more appropriate to have the meeting elsewhere on this occasion. However, in the end there was an almost unanimous view that the best course would be to consider the question of the site of the NATO spring meeting as a procedural matter without political significance, and that is what happened.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the information the Secretary of State for External Affairs has just given to the House regarding the motion of condemnation passed by the Security Council of the United Nations, does Canada intend to take any steps with reference to the membership of Portugal in NATO?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that the question of membership of Portugal in NATO is, as in the case of Greece, one to be decided on the basis of two considerations: would the departure from NATO of Portugal or Greece strengthen the alliance, and would it do anything to promote the kind of policies we favour? As hon. members know, I supported in this House the findings of the Council of Europe in respect of Greece. We have condemned the policies of Portugal in Africa, but I do not think this means that Portugal should be expelled from NATO.