

lives and which threatens to exterminate a whole people. What I find so regrettable about the lengthy and evasive statement we have heard is that there was no mention, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, of the one thing, amid these different alternatives, which is staring the people of Canada in the face. The obvious place where our help should begin is in the operation which, despite danger and difficulties, is in fact being carried on by Joint Churchaid, to which Canairelief has given tremendous and heroic assistance.

● (2:30 p.m.)

Why is it that this channel of help is being neglected? It is suggested that Colonel Ojukwu should accept in their place daylight air relief flights. Is the Prime Minister aware—if he is, he has shown no sign of it—that the International Red Cross operation contemplates only the delivery of some 90 tons of supplies over a three week period under the control of the Nigerian army and air force authorities?

Canairelief is a voluntary organization. I should not say Canairelief because the organization also includes other voluntary bodies that have banded together in Churchaid, but the joint church operation is flying in 200 tons of supplies nightly. Is Colonel Ojukwu or anybody else being asked to accept a three weeks arrangement, tainted as it is, which would involve a much smaller amount of supplies? Is this going to help Colonel Ojukwu's own people? That is what the Prime Minister suggests. It is ridiculous to pretend that this operation cannot be assisted without causing some breach of protocol or improper intervention in the affairs of another nation. As a matter of international law the right of humane intervention has been recognized for centuries, and is still clearly attested to by recognized authorities in the field.

The most important factor of all has already been stated by the Leader of the Opposition, who pointed out that Canairelief operations have indirectly been supported to the tune of \$800,000 by the United States government through payments to church agencies. The U.S. government can assist church agencies to do this job, and they are the only ones who are relieving starvation. Why cannot our government do the same thing? Earnest requests have been made by many Canadians to this effect.

Minister's Statement on Biafran Relief

There has been a long and elaborate discussion on the subject of daylight flights, and I noted certain significant omissions in the statement of the Prime Minister. He referred to a document that he did not admit was an agreement. Yesterday the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that the only agreement was with Nigeria. I have in my hand what purports to be a copy of an agreement entered into by the Red Cross agency and the Biafran authorities on August 27, 1969, providing in detail for daylight flights. The statement, which is so loosely made, that Colonel Ojukwu has refused to allow daylight flights is not in accordance with the fact.

After this agreement was signed the Red Cross went to the federal Nigerian government and secured another agreement. What does this agreement provide? Paragraph 4 reads as follows:

Routing to and from Uli, call signs, radio communication, emblems, types of aircraft and flight schedules shall be as agreed from time to time by the ICRC with the Nigerian Air Force and the Nigerian Army.

Is it not perfectly clear that this is asking the Biafran authorities perhaps to sign their own death warrants? It is certainly asking them to surrender. What does the agreement go on to provide? The Prime Minister made something of the fact that Colonel Ojukwu was asking for certain military considerations in the proposals that he made. Paragraph 6.2 of this draft agreement between the International Red Cross and the Nigerian federal government provides:

This agreement shall be without prejudice to military operations by the federal military government.

Perhaps both sides are using propaganda in this battle, Mr. Speaker, and it is not surprising that they are. The Biafrans are fighting a war of survival and it would not be reasonable to expect them to agree to anything which might lead to their military defeat.

But there is more than just the propaganda of one side behind this matter. As long ago as last January General Alexander, a British member of the observer team in Nigeria, according to *The Economist* of January 11 spoke of a Nigerian plan, in collaboration with the British government, to propose certain relief measures which for military reasons would be unacceptable to the Biafran authorities, and which could then be used for propaganda purposes by blaming Colonel Ojukwu for Biafran starvation. This is precisely what has occurred. Indeed, when talking about propaganda it seems to me that the