

Inquiries of the Ministry

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The crest is a lion, in its right paw a red maple leaf, which latter during the great war, came to be used as a symbol of sacrifice.

3. In the description in non-heraldic terms of Canada's coat of arms, 1964, we find the following:

On the royal helmet, draped in a mantle of white and red, is the crest consisting of a wreath or ring of twisted white and red silk on which stands a crowned gold lion holding in its right paw a red maple leaf.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I ask that motions Nos. 134 and 158 be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CYPRUS—POSSIBLE CHANGES IN SIZE OF PEACE KEEPING FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, as the matter concerns two departments I will direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister and ask him whether there has been any request by the United Nations or consideration given by the government of Canada to the reduction by 80 per cent of the Canadian contingent in the United Nations peace keeping force in Cyprus. Has any communication been made to the Prime Minister in this regard?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there has been no such request received by me or any member of the government; nor has any communication passed between the government and the United Nations on that subject. I am informed that the reports to the effect that such a reduction is being contemplated are without foundation.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then is any consideration being given at the moment to any increase in the size of the contribution by Canada or other nations to the troops comprising the UN force today?

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, the matter of the possible increase in the force is, I believe, being considered by the secretary general, but no communication has been received from him on the matter. Nor has any request been made by the Canadian government for any such increase.

[Mr. Stewart.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Has any informal consideration been given by the government to increasing the numbers in the Canadian force?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, no consideration, formal or informal, has been given.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question. I want to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has any information regarding reports that the governments of Greece and Turkey have agreed on a proposal for the union of Cyprus with Greece under certain conditions. Can he give the house any idea what those conditions are, and does he know through diplomatic channels what is the reaction of the Cypriot government to this proposal?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Canada is not a party to the negotiations in Geneva, and would not be expected to become a party because of the neutral position we occupy as a member of the force itself. There have been discussions between the government of Greece and the government of Turkey and the mediator in Geneva, but beyond that it is not desirable to go at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Could the minister inform the house whether the Canadian government was consulted on the planned reduction of the United Nations force in Cyprus?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister just gave an answer to such a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, and the answer was no.

Mr. Caouette: I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question.

Since the government was not consulted, could he tell us whether, according to him, the forces to be withdrawn will be those under the financial responsibility of the United Nations or whether the reduction will be proportional to the number of troops maintained by the various countries in Cyprus?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member misunderstood the answer given by the Prime Minister and the explanation I myself gave him in answering his question, a few moments ago.