

Inquiries of the Ministry

this whole situation is bound to excite interest at the United Nations, and this in turn could encourage moves to give the United Nations a wider authority than it now possesses under the security council resolution of November last, which merely urged member states to take all possible steps to give effect to the sanctions program which was being taken against the government of Rhodesia.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does that very lucid statement the minister has just made indicate that Canada intends to do its part in making sure that this problem shall be submitted to the United Nations?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The right hon. gentleman I am sure would lucidly understand that that is a question that can only be dealt with at the right moment.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): In connection with what has been just said, I should like to ask whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs can assure the house that the Canadian government will lend all necessary support, diplomatic and otherwise, to any action thought necessary by the British government, even including the use of force, to prevent the economic sanctions approved by the United Nations from being made ineffective by the delivery of shipments of gasoline to Rhodesia.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure that I am prepared to agree without qualification to the suggestion made about the use of force, because there are important consequences stemming from that which one would want to bear in mind. I can say, however, that the Canadian government has taken every step pursuant to the security council resolution of last November to support the position of the British government, and to register its strong opposition to the illegal regime in Rhodesia.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If Canada undertook to assist in the use of force against Rhodesia might that not entail the loss of life unnecessarily?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I did not of course say that we would undertake to use force. My hon. friend will recall that in February last, in discussion in this house, I made that very clear. If force is used to the

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

limit the consequences involved in my hon. friend's question are obvious.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest we go to another subject. We have had the original question and five or six supplementary questions.

ZAMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO TERMINATION
OF AIR LIFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister tell the house whether the oil lift for Zambia that Canada has been taking part in has terminated, and if so was the reason for that termination the fact that other oil supplies were adequate for Zambia?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the oil lift for Zambia has not terminated. Canadian participation continues until the end of the month, when the matter is to be reviewed. I might say that the oil lift has been a very effective project.

NATIONAL SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF
ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, on March 4 the Prime Minister announced that he intended to set up a royal commission to review the security procedures which have obtained in this country in recent years. I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he is now in a position to announce the personnel and the terms of reference of such a commission and, if not, how soon does he expect to be able to do so?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to announce the personnel nor the terms of reference of the proposed commission now. I was giving consideration last evening to the terms of reference, and I hope very shortly after the resumption of parliament after the Easter recess to announce to parliament the commission's terms of reference, and the personnel.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the Prime Minister whether it is his intention in the terms of reference to empower the commission to look into any of the grievances with respect to security cases that have been handled in recent years.