

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CYPRUS—REPORTED ACTION IN SELF DEFENCE BY CANADIAN TROOPS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs with regard to a report concerning action taken by Canadian troops in the United Nations force in Cyprus. I should like to ask whether the action taken by Major Tremblay, who said he had to take this action in self defence, was in keeping with instructions from the Canadian government. Was the government consulted; and if the instructions issued by the United Nations do not permit such action being taken, could they be amended so such action could be taken without violation of instructions?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Whatever action was reported as having been taken by the Canadian contingent participating in the force would be pursuant to the relations between the Canadian contingent and the commander of the United Nations force. Canada does not give direct instructions to the Canadian contingent. These are given by the commander of the force, who in turn is responsible to the United Nations. The action purported to have been taken is consistent with the instructions laid down by the secretary general.

SOUTH VIET NAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, bearing in mind reports today of what appears to be the increasing gravity of the military situation in South Viet Nam. I wonder whether the minister would consider informing the house of the situation there, as well as Canada's involvement in United States policy.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As I said the other day, the military situation in South Viet Nam has for some time been of concern to Canada as a member of the supervisory and control commission in South Viet Nam. However, it is not clear to me what the hon. member means when he speaks of a developing crisis or of Canadian involvement in United States strategy. I would simply say, we are not in any way involved in the sense of the implication of the question.

[Mr. Pearson.]

PENSIONS**CANADA PLAN—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he is yet in a position to make a statement to the house with regard to the negotiations with certain provinces about the Canada pension plan. If not, does he hope to be able to make that statement tomorrow?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yesterday I said I hoped to be in a position to make that statement in a day or two. I expect to be in a position to make it not later than Monday of next week.

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Does the Prime Minister inform the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare of the decisions he makes following his negotiations with Mr. Lesage concerning changes to be brought to the Canada pension plan?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Is the government considering holding a constitutional conference representing all the provinces so as to discuss, and if possible agree upon, amendments to the British North America Act which will permit the Canada pension plan to embody benefits which now are limited only to the provinces?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that can perhaps be done without the kind of full scale constitutional conference to which the hon. member refers; but I hope that in my statement on Monday I will be able to throw some light on this.

Mr. Nowlan: Thank you.

INCOME TAX**QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO BEHAVIOUR OF OFFICIALS**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Revenue.