

Inquiries of the Ministry

the presence of both Greek and Turkish forces on the island, the extensive military preparations that have been made by Turkey, and the question of the kind of role the United Nations could play within Cyprus to assist the authorities of that island and help bring about peaceful conditions.

The purpose of the consultations is also to see if there is any basis for moving from a solution of the immediate crisis which is before us toward some more large scale solution of the basic issues at a later stage. We are examining this together with the nature of the role of the United Nations at the present time in Cyprus. Consultations that we have had, which I referred to yesterday, in Ankara and in Greece have not yet revealed any agreement, but these contacts are continuing.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the proposals that are being discussed include enlarging the mandate of the UN contingents and enlarging the force so as to make it possible to prevent either side sending to Cyprus further troops and war material.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That particular suggestion is not part of the effort that Canada has been undertaking.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Acting Prime Minister has outlined a three point program and the Prime Minister over in London has outlined a five point program. Is it correct that the Prime Minister is acting as an intermediary on behalf of Turkey and that the five point program is the Turkish one?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, there is no difference between what the Prime Minister is seeking to do and what is being done in Ottawa and elsewhere. I am very grateful, as I am sure the house is, that the Prime Minister is in London discussing this matter with one of the principal countries concerned.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICARE—REQUEST FOR REASSURANCE
AS TO STARTING DATE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the [Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Acting Prime Minister. Since the Minister of Finance has now had ample opportunity to report to his cabinet colleagues regarding his discussions with the provincial ministers of finance here in Ottawa last week, can the Acting Prime Minister assure the house that it is the government's intention to proceed with medicare on July 1, 1968, in any province which has indicated its willingness to proceed and qualifies under the legislation?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I would refer my hon. friend to what the Prime Minister said in the house on November 14 in answer to questions put by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre; what he said on November 13 in answer to a question by the hon. member for Churchill, and what he said on October 25, 1967 in answer to a question by the hon. member for Ontario. The question put by the hon. member for Ontario was as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of reports in the last week or so regarding the starting date of medicare which have created in the minds of the people of this country uncertainty, turmoil and doubt, will the Prime Minister issue a statement or assure those interested that no change is contemplated in the original plan to put medicare into effect on July 1, 1968?

The Prime Minister replied:

The hon. gentleman should not be disturbed by such reports.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the Acting Prime Minister would want to revert to motions.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is that all answers by the Secretary of State for External Affairs should be made as statements on motions and not be given during the question period.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There is a very easy way of disposing of that problem. My hon. friend does not need to ask any questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Then finally—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I thought the Acting Prime Minister had answered the question.