

STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.



July 21, 1974 *20*

STATEMENT BY

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP

CYPRUS

STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP, SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1974

CYPRUS

Diplomatic Front:

As you know the United Nations Security Council has approved a resolution asking for a cease-fire. This cease-fire has not come into effect.

We of course are one of those countries trying to rally support. Our particular purpose, however, diplomatically is to support the efforts of the British Government under the Treaty for the Independence for Cyprus to bring about a meeting amongst the three guarantor powers, the British, the Greeks and the Turks. I was in touch personally yesterday with Mr. Callaghan to tell him that Canada will do everything it could to help him in bringing about this meeting and that we made representation in Greece and Turkey and in other countries to this effect.

United Nations Peacekeeping Activity:

For the last ten years the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, to which Canada contributes the second largest contingent, has been a major element in preventing clashes between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities on the Island.

When the Government of Archbishop Makarios was overthrown a week ago the United Nations Force had a particularly important role to play. Initially the difficulty was between factions of the Greek Cypriot community and the United Nations Force was largely successful in preventing fighting from developing between the two communities.

In recent days, as fighting on the Island has intensified as a result of the interjection of Turkish National Forces, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force has taken on an additional role trying to prevent the fighting from spreading to Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In

cases where fighting actually broke out, the United Nations Force used all the means at its disposal to achieve local cease-fires even before agreement was reached yesterday in the Security Council to call for a general cease-fire. In some cases the United Nations Forces were successful in their efforts but unfortunately in many other cases they were not.

The Canadian Contingent in the United Nations Force on Cyprus has been amongst the most active in recent days because of its responsibility for the Nicosia area where fighting has been the most intense. We are all concerned that in the course of these efforts nine members of the Canadian Contingent have been wounded. I am pleased to be able to confirm, however, that in all cases the injuries have not been serious.

We have remained in direct contact with Colonel Beattie, the Commander of the Canadian Contingent and we have also received regular reports on the United Nations Forces activities on Cyprus from U.N. Headquarters in New York. All of these reports indicate that the Force as a whole, and the Canadian Contingent in particular, have carried out their duties in a most exemplary way despite the increasing difficulties they are facing and I am sure this will be a source of pride and satisfaction for all Canadians.

We have been in touch this morning with U.N. Headquarters where we have had confirmed that there is no question at this time of the U.N. Force relinquishing its responsibilities and withdrawing from the Island, despite the difficult conditions being experienced. On the other hand, in particular cases it has been necessary for elements of the U.N. Force to withdraw from their more exposed outpost when it became apparent that there was nothing useful they could do in the circumstances and that they might be in some physical danger. I should add that if and when a settlement

is achieved in present difficulties it may well be that the U.N. Force on the Island will have to assume even further responsibilities in an effort to ensure that the terms of any agreement are carried out.

Security of Canadian Civilians:

On the civilian side, two Canadian consular officers set up their office last Friday and immediately proceeded to establish contact with the Canadians in Cyprus. They are, of course, co-operating with the Canadian Contingent to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in the specific task of assisting Canadians stranded on the Island.

A message has been broadcast to all Canadians through the British Forces Broadcasting service in Cyprus asking them to get in touch with the Canadian Consular Office and giving them the location and telephone numbers.

In view of the continuing hostilities in the Nicosia area, all Canadian residents are being evacuated from Nicosia to Dhekelia on the Southern coast of Cyprus through a route arranged and protected by the British Forces. From there, the evacuees will be flown to a safe haven by a Canadian Forces Hercules which is now on the ground in Cyprus. The process of evacuation will, of course, continue as long as necessary. Cairo, Beirut or Lahr may be used as staging points. Evacuees will, of course, receive all the assistance they need from the Canadian personnel at any of these points.

We have naturally requested that lists of evacuees be given to us so that we may reassure as quickly as possible the numerous people who are worried about friends and relatives. Our Consular Services will communicate with friends and families as soon as information becomes available.