

[THE EARL OF CLANCARTY.]

tremendous distribution of the document to other Government departments, and to NORAD and the CIA? I should like to ask whether in this case the word "contacts" means close encounters?

Viscount Long: Yes, my Lords, I have the document here, and it has nothing to do with the Ministry of Defence. It is made up to look rather like a Christmas menu. Its existence in the Ministry of Defence has been denied on television. Someone else has made it up. It is not a Ministry of Defence document—not the way it is made up, like a Christmas menu.

### ~~Home Forces: Recruitment Campaign~~

11.7 a.m.

The Earl of Kimberley: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that a robust publicity campaign is launched about their proposals for the new Home Service Force, the expansion of the Territorial Army, and the new Teenager Training Scheme.

The Earl of Avon: My Lords, a campaign to publicise the Youth Adventure Scheme is already in progress, and appropriate action to publicise the Home Service Force is in hand. There are already periodic recruiting campaigns for the Territorial Army.

The Earl of Kimberley: My Lords, may I thank my noble friend for that Answer? I wonder whether he can enlarge upon it a little and say whether the Royal Naval Reserve is being increased? Perhaps we shall be in dire need of them very shortly. Can he perhaps give some firm figures for the Territorials?

The Earl of Avon: My Lords, I understand that the Royal Naval Reserve stands at 5,361 and the Marines at 1,089, and these figures are close to the total strengths. The Territorial Army has had some very satisfactory recruiting figures since May 1979. They have increased in strength from 59,000 to 71,000.

Lord Molloy: My Lords, can the noble Earl tell the House whether there have been any amendments to the Teenager Training Scheme, in order to rid it of those elements that are redolent of industrial conscription?

The Earl of Avon: My Lords, so far as I know, there has been no amendment to the scheme.

Lord Harmer-Nicholls: My Lords, with regard to publicity, is my noble friend making full use of television, through both advertising and news and documentary programmes, in order to bring the schemes to the attention of possible recruits?

The Earl of Avon: My Lords, so far as the Youth Adventure Scheme is concerned, it started only a week

ago, and whether it will require more or less publicity will depend on how it is received. With regard to the Home Service Force, it is to be a pilot scheme, and no such publicity is envisaged at the moment.

Lord Molloy: My Lords, is the noble Earl aware that in our previous discussions on the Teenager Training Scheme it was pointed out that if a teenager did not accept the conditions, such as the £15 a week, his punishment would be that he could not receive any form of unemployment benefit? As I understand it, the Government were going to look at that aspect and possibly remove its ugliness.

The Earl of Avon: My Lords, I am sorry, I did not understand the noble Lord's first question. Of course, we are talking about different things. This is the Youth Adventure Scheme, which is a two-week scheme and has nothing to do with the one to which he refers, which, I am afraid, is wide of the Question.

Baroness Wootton of Abinger: My Lords, is not the teenager training scheme included in the noble Earl's Question?

The Earl of Avon: No, my Lords. This is the Youth Adventure Scheme, which is a fortnight's scheme. This is not the scheme to which the noble Lord, Lord Molloy, is referring.

### ~~Pension Payments to Britons Living Abroad~~

11.10 a.m.

Lord Mackie of Benshie: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government why British pensioners who have paid their full contribution during their lifetime but are now living abroad do not receive the increases in the pension and why the Government allow this to continue.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security (Lord Trefgarne): My Lords, the general position is that British pensioners abroad receive their pensions at the rate which was in force when they left this country, or, if they were already abroad, at the time when they first qualified. Subsequent increases are payable only where this is provided for either under EEC regulations or under a bilateral agreement on social security between the United Kingdom and another country. To pay increases other than in these cases would cost about £113 million a year, and we have no plans to do so.

Lord Mackie of Benshie: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that Answer, but is the reason not a little unjust? Does he not agree that, if British people have paid the money, they deserve to get the same pension wherever they are living? Surely it is a little unjust for the Government to collect this money, which is what they are doing, simply because these people live abroad?