

(Continued from p. 1)

IN PARLIAMENT

Lake Centre, Saskatchewan) asked for a statement as to what the attitude of Canada's representatives was to be at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Atlantic Pact countries, and other meetings, with respect to sending Canadian forces to Europe. Mr. Diefenbaker said that the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill had suggested the need for two or three divisions from Canada, among others, for Europe.

Mr. Diefenbaker said in part:

"The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) will be attending these meetings. Surely we have a right to expect some indication as to what Canada's stand will be. When I say that, I do not mean to imply that any other nations will dictate to us; I mean that Parliament has a right to expect that the attitude to be taken by Canada's representatives be known."

The Prime Minister replied, in part, as follows:

"It should not be forgotten that at the present time Mr. Churchill occupies in the House of Commons at Westminster the same position that is occupied in this House by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Drew). He is the leader in that House of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, responsible to the electors of the United Kingdom. In this country it may be surprising to some, but I am sure not to very many, that decisions about the formation and use of Canadian armed forces are to continue to be made by the Government of Canada, and by the House of Commons responsible to the electors of Canada.

"The hon. member wishes to have some further information. I will say to him at once that the Government of Canada at this time is not considering the raising of Canadian forces to dispatch to Europe as a deterrent to aggression in Europe, and has not before it any such suggestion from any of the Governments of the North Atlantic Treaty nations. Some three weeks ago it had some suggestions from the Council of Deputies of the Permanent Members of the North Atlantic Treaty nations as to the provision of arms and equipment for increasing the deterring forces in Europe with respect to any possible aggression against them there. Those suggestions were considered. The decision of the Government in respect thereof was brought to Parliament, and Parliament has appropriated \$300 million as an answer to that suggestion.

"It should be realized that the planning under the North Atlantic Treaty is being done by the Governments of the North Atlantic Treaty nations, and not by the opposition parties in those respective nations. Personally I do not expect that those Governments will suggest that the armed effort of a nation of some fourteen million people for the purpose of deterring aggression in Europe should be twenty or thirty per cent of the armed effort of a nation of 140 million people. Nor do I feel

they are apt to suggest that the best value to be obtained from Canada's contribution would be by sending men to Europe, and housing, clothing, feeding and providing for them there, rather than by using those men here to help in our production of arms and equipment for men available in Europe, whose need of arms and equipment is greater than the European countries themselves can meet...."

Obviously, the Prime Minister said, the Secretary of State for External Affairs was not going to the North Atlantic Council with a closed mind. The Government was ready to give the most careful and deliberate consideration to everything which might be proposed or recommended.

"But," he proceeded, "our present view is the view that was expressed when the recent defence appropriation was before the House, that is to say, that the most effective immediate contribution Canada can make to the joint strength in Europe of the North Atlantic Nations is the provision of arms and equipment which will enable the young men of the nations of Western Europe to have effective means of providing security for their own homelands, and of building up their combined strength as a deterrent to aggression from any quarter...."

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**THE DEATH OF FIELD MARSHAL SMUTS:** The following are the partial texts of statements issued by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, on the death of Field Marshal, the Rt. Hon. Jan Christiaan Smuts:

Mr. St. Laurent: "It was with profound regret that I learned of the death of Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. Jan Christiaan Smuts. His loss will be deeply felt, not only in his own country, but throughout the whole of the Commonwealth and, indeed, in every part of the world. Jan Christiaan Smuts had adopted the world as his nation. Successively, he had applied his talent, his energy and his vision to such projects as the Union of South Africa, the alliance which was the League of Nations, the association of the Commonwealth of Nations, and the community which is the United Nations. World unity was the leitmotiv of Field Marshal Smuts' long and fruitful career. The world has indeed lost one of its faithful servants...."

Mr. Pearson: "For half a century the name of Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts has signified to people all over the world two great principles in human affairs - political reconciliation and democratic constitutional progress. In South Africa, the leadership which he gave to the process by which elements in the community of English and Dutch origins were drawn together for their common welfare has won universal respect and admiration. Beyond the borders of his own country, he won equal respect, for himself and for his fellow countrymen, by the part which he played in world affairs...."