

Supply—National Defence

Third, to establish an airlift from Canada to Italy to back up the Canadian contingent now serving in the United Nations emergency force.

Fourth, to establish just a few days ago, last Saturday, in Egypt, the first Canadian element of the emergency force that will serve there. At the moment there are just under 200 personnel at Abu Suweir Egypt.

This sort of achievement has been made possible by the policy, which has been energetically pursued over the past six years, of building sufficient forces in being, trained for immediate employment, and with the necessary equipment, transportation and ancillary services to bring them into effective action with a minimum of delay.

There has, I note, been some, though very little, I am glad to say, criticism of the changes in plans that from time to time have characterized some of our activities during these recent hectic days. Let me say that such changes were actuated only by a desire on our part to be ready at all times to act in accordance with the wishes of the United Nations. Every change that we made was made after prior approval by the United Nations, and every step that we took was similarly approved before it was made.

There was some criticism at one point in the debate with respect to whether we were working closely with General Burns, whether we knew what he had in mind, whether he knew what we could best supply and so on. When the force was bruted we immediately sent to New York three senior officers, specialists in their particular branches, and they are still in New York working with the United Nations staff. But we did more than that. When General Burns finally arrived in New York after considerable delay, we sent the chief of the general staff and the chief of the air staff to New York and they had long conferences with him on all problems confronting us. Therefore I think there is a meeting of minds as to what he has in view and as to what steps we should take, and I think the relationship is excellent and should be very helpful in the future.

There is one other thing. If in the face of unprecedented events, unprecedented confusion and very real danger to peace, the United Nations and the United Nations commander have seen fit from time to time, under these new and strange circumstances, to change their plans and their requests, let us try to realize their difficulties. Let us at least give them credit for the same earnestness of purpose that actuates our own actions and the same urgent desire to make progress in the great and vital work that we have undertaken together. On that phase of the matter I think I might very well quote from

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a recent editorial in the *Ottawa Journal*. It seems to me to sum up our position in this matter very closely. In an editorial that appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* on November 21 these words are found:

While it would have been satisfying to Canadian pride to have our pioneering suggestion for the peace-policy force followed by immediate Canadian battalion participation in that force, much more than the self esteem of individual nations is at stake. This is United Nations' business, not Canadian business or commonwealth or NATO business. It was not for Ottawa to set planes or ships or men in motion after she had made them available for the instructions of U.N. What Canada has undertaken to do, and must do, is serve in the way U.N. wishes.

May I now say a word about the expenditures which we will be looking at. Because of the defence expenditures and defence programs that it has so consistently supported and endorsed in recent years, this parliament can, I believe, feel gratified that when a testing time such as this has come Canada's armed forces have proved themselves to be decisive, efficient and effective.

With regard to the estimates now before you, as Canadian participation in the United Nations emergency force is to be provided from the regular navy, army and air force in being, the additional costs involved will be limited to those expenditures that may be required by reason of the employment of these forces in this particular role rather than in their normal peace-time role in Canada.

While some data are available from which these additional costs can be estimated, hon. members will realize that in large part they are at this time a matter of conjecture. In an effort, however, to have some appreciation of the possible costs involved in this operation I have had our officials concerned estimate, as best they could, the costs which might likely be incurred for the remainder of the fiscal year. These come all told to just under \$5 million. I have asked them to prepare a breakdown of these expenses for the three services, and with the consent of the committee I should like to table this document. I have prepared copies which can be distributed immediately to all members. It may be useful in considering the estimates.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the hon. member asking leave to table or have printed?

Mr. Campney: I do not think it is necessary to print it unless the house wishes to have that done.

Mr. Knowles: Let us have it in *Hansard*.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the wish of the committee that this be printed in *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Campney: The breakdown is as follows: