

*Supply—National Defence*

liaison between the different elements of government. The military commanders have already been instructed to establish the closest possible contact with the provincial ministers who are connected with civil defence. Hence I think there is an improvement there which will lead to still better and tighter arrangements.

The next question asked was with regard to limited warfare. I should like to stress the point that we have in Canada three brigades organized into brigade groups, as I said yesterday; one brigade in the Atlantic area, one brigade in central Canada and one in western Canada. They have not only infantry battalions but all the supporting arms including armour. They are regular troops who could be used at any time for any purpose which the government might decide was in the interests of the defence of Canada or the maintenance of our commitments to NATO and the United States.

Reference was made to the question of the mobility of those troops. I pointed out yesterday that we are increasing the facilities of our air transport command. Additional heavy transports are under order. Those are known as the CC-106. We have on order 10 new medium transports. Then I pointed out how the SA-16-B—that is the Albatross—which is to be used primarily for the purpose of search and rescue and mercy operations can on very short notice be used for the transfer of supplies and personnel.

I am not pretending in any way that we have enough military transport to move one brigade to any part of the world at any time, but we do have enough military transport to move a portion of that brigade, perhaps one battalion, not with their full equipment but with adequate equipment, to take part in a peace-preserving mission to which Canada might be asked by the United Nations to make a contribution. If more troops than that were required we would have to do what has been done in the past; that is, either call upon commercial companies to supply the additional transport or call upon our allies to supply the transport required.

It is hardly a requirement for us to have a large number of air transport vehicles standing by for such an emergency. We can call upon the commercial companies, which can make transport available as they have done in the past, if an emergency arises. While we support wholeheartedly the suggestion of a United Nations police force, the contribution of one full brigade from a country the size of Canada would seem to be rather out of proportion to the requirement which might be needed, unless some of the major

countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, and so forth, were not taking part in such an operation, in which case I think there would be more transport available.

Questions were asked regarding the mobility of the brigade group in Europe. The brigade group in Europe have a definite role; that is, to try to blunt the attack which might take place through western Europe if Russian forces marched, and to channel those advancing columns into areas where they would be vulnerable to attack by air forces. It will be noted that we are strengthening those attack elements of the air forces in France and Germany by re-equipping our air division there.

I am not minimizing the importance of mobility, but at the moment we have not got a universal personnel armoured vehicle. However, money is provided in these estimates for the further development of the Canadian research vehicle which is generally known as the Bobcat, and if the tests which have been carried out and which have been promising and which will be continued this year are up to expectation, then consideration will be given to the equipping of the brigade with this vehicle.

But while the vehicle has been shown—I think some hon. members have already seen the tests, which appear on the surface to be eminently satisfactory—it must be remembered that those tests were not carried out with armour steel. The tests this year are to try out the adaptability of that vehicle when equipped with armour plate. There were some little difficulties found in the construction of the vehicle as it was tried out last year and this spring which have to be rectified before we can embark on full production and decide that it is necessary to equip the brigade with this vehicle.

In order to make up for that seeming loss of mobility—and I say “seeming loss of mobility” because all the units of the brigade are fully equipped with their total complement of vehicles—this spring we sent over some 200 heavy transports in addition to the normal unit transports, and these additional vehicles will be used for the movement of personnel and equipment as and when required. We are also examining very carefully whether there should be an addition to the number of helicopters which are now available to the army. The army has a few helicopters, but one of the difficulties in that respect is to align the requirements of the three services so that we can get one type, or at most two types, of helicopter to meet the varying requirements of the different services. I hope we are making progress in