

*Supply—External Affairs*

Air Force personnel in airlifting the entire Canadian contingent from the Middle East to Canada in less than three days.

Demands on the United Nations to undertake peace keeping operations will, I believe, continue to be made despite the difficulties which have surrounded the withdrawal of UNEF. World conditions will remain troubled; I hope they will get better, but international disputes will remain unsettled for years to come. The United Nations will not be able to deal with all of these situations or to solve all of these disputes, but it will remain the only international organization which, in most instances, is acceptable as an impartial outside presence. In particular, it seems to me that the great powers will prefer that the United Nations intervene in certain situations rather than be drawn in themselves with incalculable consequences for world peace.

Nevertheless, and as far as Canada is concerned, the manner of UNEF's withdrawal is bound to have the effect that contributors to peace keeping operations will be even more concerned in future to define as clearly as possible in advance the terms of reference of peace keeping operations and in particular the relationship between the UN and the host country. It is clear that peace keeping must be based on the consent of the governments concerned. It is not enforcement action which is action taken by the security council to maintain or restore international peace and security in accordance with the application of sanctions under chapter VII of the charter. We fully accept that peace keeping cannot be carried out without the approval of the host government.

● (8:20 p.m.)

It should not be forgotten, however, that the contributors to peace keeping operations must also give their consent to the arrangements under which the operation is to take place. They too have their interests to protect. It is only on the basis of mutual confidence that peace keeping can be carried on to the benefit of all.

I continue to believe that it is the right course for Canada to be prepared to help the United Nations to carry out its primary task under the charter namely the maintenance of peace and security, provided we are satisfied that the terms and conditions are such as to make this task feasible and are compatible with our foreign policy interests. It may be that there are those who will say we are not impartial in regard to certain disputes and

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

therefore that we are not eligible for particular operations. If so, we shall not find it difficult to stand aside. It is not our wish to impose our presence anywhere that it is not wanted.

I must say that I do not agree with my right hon. friend when he says that Canada, because of this incident, has lost the confidence and the respect of many nations in the world. From my experience with my contacts, and I suppose they are as extensive these days as those of the right hon. gentleman, my impression is that Canada in most parts of the world is respected as a nation that seeks to carry out its obligations under the charter as honourably and as dutifully as any other member state of the organization. We have never pretended, and we do not now pretend to be the world's peace keepers, great as has been our experience in that regard. We are a country with views of our own. We have our own interests and our own policies and these must come first. But it is still our strong view that there is no substitute for the international organization of peaceful conditions in the world, and that the United Nations still offers the best hope of peaceful intervention in certain situations.

This is not the time to turn away from the United Nations, to turn back to international conditions as they existed earlier in this century. Therefore I have no hesitation in repeating that Canadian support of United Nations peace keeping operations, provided these take into account our interests as a contributor, is the right course for us to follow as one of the important elements in our defence and foreign policy; and as long as I am in this office this is what we will continue to do.

The situation in the Middle East has brought home to us the interdependence of the world in which we live. It has brought home to us that a reluctance to face the causes of hostility and human friction is bound to assert itself in undesirable results at some future date. That is the situation that has confronted us during the past three weeks. We now have an opportunity of rectifying errors in this part of the world. These are errors that all nations must share, those directly involved as well as other countries in the international community.

We must now make sure that this war is brought to an end. This the security council has done as effectively in the circumstances as I would have hoped could be the case.