

Supply—External Affairs

Returning to the United Nations, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate the minister, something I think we should all do.

Mr. Churchill: Don't do that.

Mr. Nesbitt: My colleague from Winnipeg South Centre says "Don't do that".

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Be very careful of the Scotch character of my hon. friend.

Mr. Nesbitt: I think that at least on this one occasion we can offer the minister sincere congratulations on the holding in Ottawa of the recent conference on peace keeping operations. This was a matter which had been discussed between ourselves and our friends at the United Nations for a number of years, and I am delighted the minister was able to bring these conversations to a successful culmination. From conversations I had with a number of the delegates I knew, through my previous association with them, I learned the conference was a success and I think the minister, the government and the country generally are to be congratulated on producing a "first in history", if one wishes to put it that way, and on having advanced significantly the progress of international peace keeping.

This is something which received acclaim in the world press, and I think that was good because latterly in the world press Canada's image has been rather like that of the Cheshire cat in "Alice in Wonderland", gradually beginning to fade until nothing was left but the grin. One has only to look at the last few months Sunday editions of the *New York Times* and *London Times* to note how little Canadian activity has been reported. There are two possible explanations for this, one that the government is not doing very much or, second, if it is, it is keeping things under wraps and not communicating them to the press abroad—something which is not helpful to our image abroad.

Members of the Liberal party used to blame the previous government for presenting a poor image abroad, but recently instead of a poor image we have not had any image at all. I am glad to see that the peace keeping conference has helped restore our image somewhat. Perhaps the grin on the cat will start to develop into a head again.

I am glad to note the minister dealt extensively with NATO, but there are a number of questions he did not answer and which are in the minds of most people. There have been disturbing reports recently about Turkey,

which is the eastern anchor of NATO, contemplating leaving the alliance because of certain trouble she is experiencing. These reports appeared in both the Canadian and foreign press and I would ask the minister to give us some information on the matter. Is there any substance to these rumours in the press, or have Turkey's problems been dealt with?

On the question of the M.L.F. a very interesting bit of news has just come over the wires which I am sure the minister has received, to the effect that the conference of NATO parliamentarians is apparently giving moderate approval to the principle of M.L.F., something which may be hopeful. The news report reads as follows:

Legislators from 15 North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries voiced belief today that a multilateral nuclear force could "make a substantial and lasting contribution to western unity and purpose".

This would seem to be an adjunct to what the minister told us this afternoon, that some arrangement along this line would seem to be meeting with some measure of success, particularly in view of the approach being taken to this problem by the new government in the United Kingdom, which I understand has a plan up its sleeve that it is communicating to its allies. I wonder if the minister is in a position to give us some details of the proposed United Kingdom plan? It may be that they are as yet confidential, but as I understand it one of the details in the plan is that Britain would not have a nuclear deterrent of her own and would throw in her lot with NATO, provided she had some sort of veto over the use of nuclear weapons. Could the minister elaborate on this?

Dealing with the organization of American states, I am going to leave most of my observations on it to one of my colleagues who will be speaking a little later in the debate. However, there are one or two things I would like to ascertain.

When the minister's estimates first came before us last May 22 he told us at that time that Canada was going to send an observer to the organization of American states and he certainly intimated, as will be seen on reading page 3497 of *Hansard* for that date, that he was giving serious consideration to joining that organization. According to news reports the minister said the same thing in Banff a few weeks ago, and during the meetings of the committee on external affairs—