

THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 2, 1964

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

DOCUMENT TABLED

Hon. John J. Connolly tabled:

Capital Budget of The Seaway International Bridge Corporation, Ltd., for the calendar year ending December 31, 1965, pursuant to section 80(2) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S.C., 1952, together with a copy of Order in Council P.C. 1964-1810, dated November 20, 1964, approving same. (English text).

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 10, 1964

SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West), for the second reading of Bill C-140, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1965.

Hon. George S. White: Honourable senators, in May I spoke briefly on Canadian participation in the United Nations and other peace-keeping operations. On that occasion I asked the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) for some information which he has now supplied. I should like to comment briefly on the information as given to me.

The largest operation in which Canadian forces are engaged is that connected with the Gaza Strip. The cost to date of this operation has been \$46,005,000, of which it may be that the sum of over \$15 million will be recovered. At that time Canada paid the cost of the sea and air lift, amounting to \$605,561. Probably this amount is not included in the other figure I have given. Anyway, Canada paid the cost of the air lift and was not reimbursed. Speaking about the air lift to the Gaza Strip, the report which the leader has given me reads as follows:

. . . Canada absorbed the costs of the initial sea and air lift of the Canadian contingent and its equipment to the Middle East and was not reimbursed by the United Nations for these costs.

On page 2 of the same return, there is the further comment:

Information is not available on all of these expenditures and it is therefore impossible to state what is Canada's share of the total costs of the operation.

I should like to point out to honourable senators that while the figures given in the return show the total cost to be over \$46 million, it may be that the correct figure, including everything, will greatly exceed that amount.

In May, speaking in regard to the length of time the Canadian forces have been in the Gaza Strip, I made these remarks, which are reported at page 574 of the *Debates of the Senate*:

The Canadian forces have been in the Gaza Strip since the fall of 1956. Is it not reasonable to ask after this long period of time if the size of the force could be reduced, and why the Canadian forces should not be brought home? If it is still necessary to maintain this type of peace-keeping force in the Gaza Strip, the Canadian troops can be replaced by troops from other United Nations countries. No doubt when the Canadian forces went to the Gaza Strip it was to be for only a short period of time, but almost eight years have elapsed since they were sent there. This same problem of length of service now faces the new Canadian peace-keeping force in Cyprus.

In the return that the honourable Leader of the Government gave me there are two interesting comments in regard to Canadian troops in the Gaza Strip force. The first reads:

When the United Nations Emergency Force was set up by the United Nations General Assembly, it was not intended that this force should be permanent.

And then at the conclusion of the statement there is this comment:

It would not be easy to replace the Canadian component of the UNEF with troops from another country.

I would be very happy if the honourable Leader of the Government would explain why it would not be possible to replace Canadian troops by troops from some other member nation of the United Nations.

There is another peace-keeping force in Palestine that was set up in 1948. That force is concerned with the application and observance of the general armistice agreement between Israel and the several Arab States. The cost to Canada to date has been \$1,479,000, and it is still continuing. There is no recovery so far as these costs are concerned. This force has been operating since 1948. One cannot help wondering how much longer the