

Co-operation in the Congo

I shall now say a few words on the Congo. What has happened there has given rise to one of the most challenging situations which the United Nations has ever had to face. I agree with the Foreign Minister of Argentina when he pointed out that the results so far attained are a demonstration of what international co-operation can achieve when its members are determined to lend their full support.

Canada has played its part in United Nations operations there; it did so at the request of the United Nations, providing specially qualified personnel -- signals, communications, air transport -- and emergency food provisions. Canada is a member of NATO. Is the fact that we are a member of that defensive organization any indication that the course we took, in providing this type of assistance on request, can be described as being aggressive?

As I see it, one of the larger tasks of the Assembly will be to ensure that sufficient support is forthcoming to sustain the United Nations in its efforts to revive the financial and economic life of the Congo. I take this opportunity to assure the Assembly that Canada will assume an equitable share of this burden.

UN Force Needed

I believe too that the experience in the Congo has demonstrated the need to have military forces readily available for service with the United Nations when required. For its part the Canadian Government has held in reserve a battalion transportable by air and earmarked for such service. That experience in the Congo has emphasized, as I see it, the need for the nucleus of a permanent headquarter military staff being established under the United Nations to be in readiness to prevent confusion and to assure cohesion when called upon in an emergency.

Canada's views on the Congo and on the larger African problem may be summarized in this way. The African continent must not become the focus of an East-West struggle; it must be free from the direct interference of the major powers. The African nations must be permitted to work out their own destinies; when they need help, the best source is through the agencies of the United Nations.

I turn now to a subject dealt with at great length by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., the subject of colonialism. He asked for and advocated a declaration at this session for "the complete and final elimination of colonial regimes". I think it would be generally agreed that, whatever the experience of the past, there can no longer be a relationship of master and servant anywhere in the world. He has