

Supply—National Defence

on the other, and the United Nations resolution itself does not cover any area other than that which has already been the scene of hostilities.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Chairman, I think this might be the appropriate time for me to repeat the request I made in speaking in the general debate, as to whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs could give us anything further in regard to the total number which it is envisaged will be employed in this police force.

The Minister of National Defence has told us that to date there are about 4,000 people or some figure in that neighbourhood who have been promised. There have been various figures quoted in newspaper reports. The last one I saw in yesterday's or this morning's newspaper was 6,000. Mr. Hammarskjöld said they were envisaging 6,000 people. Perhaps at this time the minister would have information as to what the total force to be employed there is envisaged to be and how they are going to be used.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, the only information I have from the United Nations is that the secretary general and the commanding officer of the force do envisage an increase of the force up to 6,000 within a short period of time, that already there have been contributions offered to the force which would make possible that increase shortly. Whether it should be later increased to 8,000, 10,000 or even more will depend on the duties and the functions of the force after they have been ascertained in the light of the experience they will acquire while they are there. I am afraid that is all I can say at the present time, but there is no limit in the United Nations resolution as to what the force might be if it were required.

Mr. Harkness: Does that 6,000 include the 2,400 or 2,500 which Canada has committed, or is that only the Canadian contingent which is already there? In other words, is it exclusive of the Queen's Own?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, this morning I asked the United Nations secretary general, or rather his executive assistant because I was not able to get the secretary general, whether this figure I had seen in the telegram did envisage a further contribution from Canada within that period about which he was talking, within the next week or two, to build it up to 6,000, and I was assured that it did.

Mr. Low: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister while he is replying to this particular question, if it were found that

more than 6,000 were required to do the job who would make the decision about increasing the number?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, that is one of the questions it is difficult to answer categorically, and I know it must be unsatisfactory to hon. members of the house not to get categorical answers to questions of this kind. I also know hon. members appreciate that not only has there not been very much time to work out the answers but there has not been very much time even in which to work out some of the questions.

As it is at present envisaged the secretary general himself would receive from the commanding officer of the force a request for additional formations to do the job which the United Nations has asked him to do. If that which he had was not sufficient then the secretary general in the first instance would take up the request with the assembly advisory committee which was set up for the purpose of advising him. If the request for additional troops was not a very large one it might very well be possible to meet that request without any further steps being taken by applying to one or another of the countries that had indicated a desire to help but whose contributions had not been called for, or it might be possible to ask some other country. If it were a substantial increase it might be necessary to come back to the full assembly and ask for authority to increase the force by a certain number.

Mr. Low: Does the minister know whether the emergency force will occupy the whole of the canal zone, or is there some limitation already placed on the territory into which it will go?

Mr. Pearson: There has been no decision reached, Mr. Chairman. That will have to be decided in the light of the circumstances. As I understand it there has been no actual limitation on the area which the force would occupy to carry out the functions that have been allocated to it.

Mr. Michener: On the same subject of the constitution of the force, I understand there is a limitation in that the major powers are not free to serve on the force; that is, the United States—well, I am not sure about the United States—

An hon. Member: Yes, all four.

Mr. Michener: —but Russia, Great Britain and France. Perhaps the minister could say what specific limitation there is as to who may be associated with our troops in this force, whether there is any power to reject any force that is offered and, if so, who has