

External Affairs

statement that if South Africa would take a second look at its policies, and reconsider them in the light of the universal opinions which had been expressed on all sides against the policies they have been following, we believed they would change their policies, and that the world would congratulate and praise them for changing their attitude in this respect. The resolution was, of course, adopted. This was the first time Canada had supported a resolution of this kind. I am sure all members of the house will appreciate that we have nothing but good wishes and good will for the government of South Africa. We trust that before the fourteenth session of the United Nations comes around the change we hope for will have taken place.

The special political committee had before it for consideration a progress report of the United Nations emergency force to which reference has already been made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and by the Leader of the Opposition. Hon. members will recall that this emergency force was formed very quickly in 1956 when the United Kingdom and France attacked Egypt and when Israel attacked Egypt at the same time. Within a very short time the force was in action separating the combatants. It has been there ever since, and during the past year it has done exceptionally good work. About 5,500 men are in the force at the present time. India has the largest number but Canada has the second largest contingent, about 1,000 men. All are under the command of Lieutenant General Burns who has been in charge of the force since it was organized.

The report showed that the force has functioned smoothly. General Burns himself was present and gave evidence and I recall him saying: "You can go to the demarcation line and you can see Egyptians on one side plowing their land and on the other side you can see the people of Israel going about their business." General Burns and his force were the recipients of congratulations from a great many delegates for the splendid work they had done since the force was established.

In addition to this we have another report from the secretary general of the United Nations. This was also referred to earlier this afternoon in support of the argument that there should be a permanent international police force. I have in my hand an advance text of the report of the secretary general which he calls a summary study of the experience derived from the establishment and operation of the force. This is a lengthy document containing approximately 75 pages and it refers in detail to all features of the experience of the United Nations emergency force. Actually it would seem

unwise for the secretary general and the staff to let the opportunity go by of studying carefully the various features of the operation of the emergency force: what were the defects of its organization and operation? But let no one think it is easy to keep the force going. In the first place it is difficult to get personnel. They are limited for you cannot take them from any permanent members of the security council nor from the countries that are concerned and the host country may have serious objections to any particular country that wishes to supply troops.

When it comes to the question of paying the shot toward the United Nations emergency force there are various matters to be considered. I could not help smiling this afternoon when the hon. member for Kootenay suggested that the force that was used in Korea might have been kept going. That would have cost billions of dollars instead of millions and I think it would have been extremely difficult if not impossible.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, may I explain to the hon. gentleman that I did not intend to convey that meaning. I suggested that it could provide the foundation for such a force.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): A foundation is something to build on and if you were to take the troops that were in Korea and build on them you would have a big army. I do not quite understand what the hon. gentleman meant.

Mr. Herridge: I was referring to the principle.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): However, I know what he had in mind. The hon. member feels there should be a permanent force. That is what the secretary general attempts to discuss in this study but this report was never debated. We were to consider it in our committee but word got around that we were going to have an opportunity to discuss it before the general assembly. We went before the general assembly where the secretary general made another brief statement in which he gave some reasons why he made this study. He indicated that there was no need for the assembly or the committee to take further action. The president then did a strange thing. He said, "You have heard the secretary general and I suppose there is no one who wishes to speak," and so the matter was concluded and no one had anything to say about this valuable report. However, it has been compiled and is available and all those who are interested or concerned may obtain a copy and draw their own conclusions. In the meantime there is nothing to prevent General Burns or the secretary general from making further observations as