

supply bases, the contact bases, and that general room for strategic manoeuvrability which you will not have unless there is some bilateral agreement which will also provide the facilities. Mr. Minister, on an emergency basis you are not able to go in and establish those lines and those bases which you may have to supply. This is the point that worries me. It is all very well to have the prestige of belonging to the club, regardless of the quality of our troops. In the event of an emergency, in the light of the new conditions, just how effective are these people going to be if they have to stand and fight, and that you intend to supply them. This is the point.

Mr. HELLYER: They are not supplied through France now, as you know.

Mr. LAMBERT: But they could be, in the event of an emergency.

Mr. HELLYER: If you agree with the premise that this territory would be available in emergency, then I cannot see that the problem is as real as you suggest.

Mr. LAMBERT: But you cannot say that the territory will be available in an emergency.

Mr. HELLYER: But you can say, because this is something that will be made very clear in the process of negotiations which are now taking place. I have no doubt that this will be the case.

Mr. LAMBERT: Well, is Canada in a position to impose that condition on France?

Mr. HELLYER: No, not at all. This would be a voluntary condition imposed by France itself. France has made it very clear that she has no intention of withdrawing from the alliance, and that she intends to fulfil the basic condition of the alliance; that she would come to the aid of any one of the members of the alliance if their territory was threatened.

Mr. WINCH: For a few moments there I thought that my question could be a complete supplementary. The line of demarcation is so evenly balanced that perhaps I could hold my question until later.

Mr. LAMBERT: If somebody wants to continue that is all right.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, if you have no direct supplementary, for the minute—

Mr. HELLYER: I do not know how you can differentiate on a question of this importance.

Mr. WINCH: I suppose I could put it then, sir. I am in your hands, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, we will be glad to hear from you.

● (10.30 a.m.)

Mr. WINCH: I hope it is not too complicated, sir. The question which I have I thought in some manner tied in with this. In view of the Minister's repeated statements on a policy of the expanded mobility of our Canadian forces I want to ask the question if under NATO's position now which includes the recent policies of France and in view of the time which has elapsed since the last world war, cannot Canada reach a policy decision on withdrawing our armed forces from Europe. Along with this question must go another one. Is the Canadian