

External Affairs

to congratulate the government for the part it played in connection with the difficulties in the Middle East over the past year. There is no doubt but that the United Nations played a most constructive, worthwhile and positive role in those developments and prevented a wider spread of the area of conflict.

The composition of the United Nations is changing owing to the addition of new members of the commonwealth and other Far Eastern nations. One might say that the balance of power is changing so that the United States is not as certain as it was in years past of getting a vote satisfactory to them on issues that come before the United Nations. I understand that is causing some concern in some circles but as far as we are concerned we feel it is a most healthy development and one that will serve, shall I say, to speed the life blood of the United Nations and provide greater opportunities for an understanding of world events and for the achievement of solutions satisfactory to a larger and increasingly wider area of the world's people.

We also think the United Nations offers a splendid opportunity for continuing negotiations. There are people who criticize the continuous talk and I admit it can be very boring just as it can be very boring in this house on occasion. I certainly trust I am not boring hon. members at this time. We believe that it is far better to keep on talking for years than to have a third world war. I am sure that all hon. members of this house subscribe to that relief. The value of the United Nations has been proven in terms of it having provided through discussion solutions to problems that otherwise would not have been solved peaceably.

The United Nations also provides the opportunity to render technical assistance to underdeveloped countries in the form of gifts and loans. I was very glad to hear the minister say that Canada is supporting an increase in the capital of the international bank. We in this group believe that is a worthwhile and forward step. We are anxious to see the development of a permanent international police force. The value of an international police force was well demonstrated in the Middle East during the crisis there. We think Canada should become a stronger voice and make greater efforts toward establishing a permanent police force—

Mr. Regier: Take the initiative.

Mr. Herridge: Yes, Canada should take the initiative as my friend the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Regier) suggests. I cannot resist saying at this point that while the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) took a very good stand on that question we

must not forget that when the Liberals were in power there was nothing done at the conclusion of the Korean war to maintain the sort of military force in being that could have been called upon quickly to meet a similar situation.

We all know that a permanent police force does not mean the organization of large armies. I do believe the force should be permanent and its numbers strengthened. Member nations of the United Nations would be willing to supply the necessary contingents to meet a situation such as that which developed in the Middle East area or which might develop in other parts of the world.

Finally, we in this group suggest that Canada should work toward getting member nations of the United Nations to be willing to submit their difficulties to the arbitration of the international court. I know that is not an immediate possibility but it is something we should work toward as people who believe in the rule of international law.

I have almost concluded what I have to say about the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, and as it is fifteen seconds before six o'clock, may I call it six o'clock?

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, when the debate on external affairs was temporarily halted to permit members to attend to internal affairs I was presenting to the house various aspects of the foreign policy of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and I now want to continue. I dealt briefly with our approach to the United Nations. I now want to say that the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation is very keen on strengthening the commonwealth. We believe that this unique, this intangible organization, this group of nations whose structure and whose behaviour is almost misunderstood by many nations in the world, is a balance wheel in the whirling machinery of international affairs. We believe that our government should do everything it can toward strengthening the ties within the commonwealth. We believe that the government should seize every opportunity for co-operation and consultation with other commonwealth nations.

I must say that we were particularly pleased to hear the minister say that there were going to be increased grants toward assistance under the Colombo plan and particularly that the government was making provision to assist some of the recent additions to the