

Supply—External Affairs

the position that the Soviet union must pay up the moneys that it owes or lose the right to vote, and has intimated that it proposes to call upon member states of the organization to take steps to give meaning to article 19.

It is obvious that every country in the United Nations has an obligation to pay, in accordance with established assessments its portion of money required to maintain the organization. We hope in Canada that the seemingly inflexible position taken by the Soviet union will be recognized as deserving of a change in attitude in order to enable that country to play the role which, as an important power in the world, it must be expected to play. It will be a matter of the greatest regret if this problem is not resolved, and the Canadian government, while it shares the same interpretation as the United States and as the government of Britain, with regard to the default consequences under article 19, hopes that the discussions at the United Nations will enable a compromise to ensue. Nothing would be more disastrous for the world than if the United Nations were to flounder or become ineffective—yes, if it were to disappear—because of the refusal of a group of countries to accept the responsibility which, in the judgment of the international court of justice, is applicable to all countries.

Mr. Chairman, those are some of the considerations that I am sure all members of the house have before them as they begin a discussion of the estimates of the Department of External Affairs. I believe that an opportunity could be afforded during the discussion of these estimates to cover other subjects, or to seek further clarifications of the items I have mentioned in my opening statement to this committee this afternoon.

Canada is one of the middle powers of the world. By that of course, I do not mean that we are unaligned or neutral, because we are not neutral and we are aligned. We are aligned with the nations of the west with which we have bound ourselves together in a common defensive alliance, not for the purpose of waging aggressive war but for the purpose of being strong enough to resist aggression. By the very acceptance of the organization itself we have undertaken to do what experience has shown the organization can and has been able to do; that is, maintain the peace in this very troubled time.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the minister a question. In order to resist

aggression would the minister advise other countries to adopt Canada's attitude of acquiring nuclear arms, against whose proliferation the minister offered some objection?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows the very fault of his question, and I am sure he does not really expect me to accept it as seriously as his manner suggests. Canada is a country that is opposed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Canada is a country that has a nuclear capacity, but throughout its whole nuclear history Canada has used this capacity for peaceful purposes and urges other nations to follow suit. All that Canada has done as a member of NATO, in reaching an agreement with the government of the United States with regard to the storage of nuclear weapons in Canada for Canadian forces and for American forces, is to live up to a commitment solemnly entered into by a government of which my hon. friend was a member.

I say to my hon. friend in the kindest but in the firmest way that I am sure that with the experience he has had in government he will recognize how important it is for Canada, in its relations with United States, to be able to share its defences not only with the United States, but with Europe, thereby establishing for Canada and for the other members the beginning of an Atlantic partnership that can be so important for those countries, and also for the peace of the world.

Mr. Churchill: While the minister is in the full flush of oratory perhaps he would answer another question, but first may I say I have never raised any objection to assisting our allies in any way whatsoever. Is his statement not tinged with hypocrisy when he proclaims to the world that proliferation of nuclear weapons is a bad thing while at the same time Canada is setting an example by using atomic weapons? Would it not be better to leave out the first part of the statement, this advice to other nations?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Apparently my hon. friend and I have different interests in this matter. I would hope that he would share my concern as external affairs minister for situations in the world that threaten its peace.

Mr. Churchill: I want to help you.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am not going to be influenced by, I regret to say the shoddy