

Supply—National Defence

see that they and their families are amply protected. I pass it on to the minister for his consideration.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks, but I would prefer to defer them if the minister wishes to answer any of the questions that have been raised.

Mr. Campney: One question was raised by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich. He asked as to the composition of the United Nations emergency force. Of course we must all realize that this force is being built up gradually, and I can only give him its status as of now. It is not the complete force, but it may be of interest to him and other hon. members as well.

The elements so far are these: An air transport squadron from Canada, which I have already mentioned; service troops, engineers, signals and other specialized troops from Canada, which I have also already mentioned; a transport squadron from Sweden; ambulance company from Norway; supply platoons for handling rations, etc., from India; half a battalion from Colombia; half a battalion from Denmark; a similar number from Norway, which are combined into one battalion; half a battalion from Finland and half a battalion from Sweden, which are also combined into a battalion; a full battalion from India; and mechanized reconnaissance platoons and supporting elements from Yugoslavia, a total of 4,367. I think a few of the troops I have mentioned from India are in transit but have not yet arrived. That is as near as we can get the figures up to date.

Mr. Knowles: I have a supplementary question. Perhaps either one of the ministers might also at this point answer one of the other questions put by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich. I think we all know from what the Prime Minister said in 1950 what the answer is, but I believe it would be well to have it on the record; namely, that if the government finds it necessary to commit troops in that area for any other purpose than that set out in the present order in council, another order in council will have to be issued and, according to section 33 of the National Defence Act, parliament will have to be called again. I think it might be well just to have that assurance made clear in the manner in which the Prime Minister made it in 1950. At the same time I feel that the government should have our assurance—and we of this group feel that way—that if the United Nations does call for further commitments for international police action while parliament would have to meet

[Mr. Jones.]

according to law, it would be prepared to support such further action.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, the present force is operating under a United Nations resolution designed to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in Egypt. I had better read the exact words of the order in council:

Authority is hereby given for the maintenance on active service of officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force, not exceeding 2,500 in number at any one time, as a part of or in immediate support of an emergency international force organized by the United Nations to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in the Middle East.

Now, if hostilities in the Middle East break out again or spread within the meaning of that order in council the government, under that order in council, would be authorized to use troops that Canada sent up to that number to supervise and secure the cessation of hostilities in some other part of the Middle East; but hostilities would have to cease first. That would not apply, of course, to the use of this force as a police force to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in other areas except the Middle East.

Mr. Winch: That will include Jordan and Syria?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, but there have been no hostilities.

Mr. Winch: But if they do break out?

Mr. Pearson: If there were hostilities, say, between Jordan and Israel, and if the United Nations intervened and managed to bring about a cessation of those hostilities and the police force was required to supervise and secure the cessation of those hostilities, then this force could be used; but this force could not be used, as I understand it, under the order in council or under the United Nations resolution to bring about the cessation of hostilities itself.

Mr. Parkes: Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs give us a more detailed definition of the Middle East? I was under the impression from the remarks he made earlier that this force was confined purely to police work along the boundary of Israel and Egypt and along the Suez. Now he has extended it to cover some rather vague terms, the Middle East.

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Chairman, the functions of the United Nations force—I am not now talking about the order in council—as agreed to in the United Nations resolution, are specifically limited to the cessation of hostilities between Israel, the United Kingdom and France on the one hand and Egypt