

*The Address—Mr. Balcer*

This international force will no doubt have a difficult task but it is nevertheless necessary. That force should have been set up long ago. As a matter of fact I remember that our former leader (Mr. Drew) had more than once urged the government to use its influence in the United Nations to bring about the setting up of such an international police force. We have now come to regret that the government has so long delayed asking the United Nations to set up this force. We have the impression that the present situation could have been avoided in this way.

However, as I was saying a moment ago, even though this international police force is necessary, I still feel that the way the government has been acting is not calculated to make this force popular in this country. There have been fumbblings of all kinds and when action did come from the United Nations we have soon become aware of the activity of those people, either in the government or in the general staff—I really do not know who would like to see this country doing more than anybody else, in a military way, and take part in every conflict, whatever our responsibilities. There is no doubt that they are probably responsible for the great confusion there was about, for instance, the men of the Queen's Own Rifles who were flown from Calgary to Halifax, accompanied by an extraordinary amount of publicity. It could be seen on television, or read about in the papers where every soldier made a statement.

The aircraft carrier, H.M.C.S. *Magnificent*, was called back from Europe in a rush. It had no sooner reached Halifax that a team of workers got aboard to convert it for the transport of troops. In spite of all that panic and hesitation, the aircraft carrier, as well as the Queen's Own Rifles battalion, are still in Halifax and no one knows when they will leave to become part of the international force. The only one who did not lose his head in these circumstances was probably General Burns and, apparently, he was not consulted or was allegedly consulted after all sorts of decisions had been made, on which he threw cold water.

Then one day the people of Canada learn that president Nasser does not accept the presence of Canadian soldiers because they wear on their shoulders a flash likely to lead to confusion and to give to understand that we are a colony of England. The next day we are told that it is not president Nasser but none other than Mr. Hammarskjöld who had said that. Some other day, it might well be General Burns or even the government. This evening, Canadian newspapers report that a Canadian major back from Naples

made the statement that, failing Nasser's permission, the Queen's Own Rifles battalion could not proceed to Suez.

Mr. Speaker, there is another thing which cannot make the United Nations international police force as popular in Canada as might be desired. It is a fact that, out of a complement of 6,000 men immediately Canada promises to send 2,500. It is no longer an international police force if Canada takes over the command and provides contingents far greater than those of any other country. It is a little surprising to note that this international force, whose setting up has been approved by a huge majority of the member states of the United Nations, has troops from only six or seven countries.

I am of the opinion that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) should advise his delegation to insist that this international force be made international in fact and not only in name.

No doubt, we must support the United Nations. It is the sole guarantee the smaller nations have against the larger ones. It is also the best way for us to obtain peace and ensure it for generations to come.

We must give it means of imposing respect; that is why personally I am in favour of an international police force. Nevertheless, Canada's contribution should be well set in advance and should not be offered blindly. All the Canadians who will be members of that international force should be well armed, well equipped and, more particularly, well trained. We must be assured that if they have to stop Russian volunteers or others from crossing the borders, they will not be exposed to irreparable losses.

Therefore, the government has the responsibility of proceeding with due caution, that is, it should not send our troops over there blindly, but only after a thorough inquiry into all the ramifications of the situation. It should also make a thorough study of all the needs of our troops and of the part they will be called upon to play in that international force.

Mr. Speaker, there is another matter about which I would like to say a few words and it is this: during this debate the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) spoke quite violently against the great western nations. He levelled severe criticisms at the leaders of some great European countries. He spoke about colonialism in no uncertain terms. I feel however that is the time for his government to pass from word to deed. I submit that the government, which claims that our country is independent, should avail itself of the opportunity offered by our contribution to the United Nations force to give Canada