

Supply—External Affairs

recollection but I do not believe that there was any question whatever at any time as to the directives upon which that force operated not being made available.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): They were never made public.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman says they were not made available.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): And should not have been.

Mr. Diefenbaker: We clearly stated what the purposes and powers were and the force discharged its authority in pursuance of the information we gave to parliament which was based on the arrangements made. I cannot understand the reason for the secrecy here. What possible reason is there why a force sent as a peace force should operate in a vacuum of secrecy?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There is no secrecy. My right hon. friend should not say that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The situation apparently is that the people of the nation which has contributed this force are to know nothing else but that a contribution was made in men and money. No one is to know how the force will operate and what the concept is upon which it will discharge its responsibilities. I must say that the words of the minister in that connection do not impress me. I feel we ought to have more information than is available to us in the newspapers.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Would my right hon. friend—I know he has been very generous with my interruptions—allow me to call his attention to the statement made by General Gyani himself as found in the *Times* of London of March 28 and reported in these words:

On the question of what directives had been received... and what orders were being given... General Gyani could not, or would not, give any precise answer.

The reason is the reason I mentioned. I ask my right hon. friend—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the minister with the greatest of attention—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is right. I am sorry.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —and I also maintained silence, but the minister does not like what I am saying. Certainly General Gyani is not going to reveal that. General Gyani is the general in command of all the forces. We are here in the parliament of Canada and our hands are not tied in the way that the general commanding these forces would

find his hands tied. Certainly I know what General Gyani said, but I am not speaking to General Gyani. I am speaking to the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada in the parliament of the country, and I am asking what the general directives are and how this force is to discharge them. Certainly the comparison between the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his own parliament and the general chosen to command the nationals of four or five countries blended together in the United Nations force is quite out of place. I do not want to keep the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam from having an opportunity to speak and that is the reason I conclude for the time being.

Mr. Douglas: I should like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for giving me a moment or two to say something. I wish to make two comments with reference to the outline which the minister has given. First of all, with reference to NATO, I do not have the time now to discuss this matter in any detail but I should like to say that I cannot agree that O.E.C.D. has really taken up the role which was assigned to NATO under article II. I think a much wider role was envisaged, a role of economic aid to underdeveloped countries, and in my opinion O.E.C.D. so far has not carried out this role to any reasonable extent.

Second, I had hoped that the minister would give us some information about the proposed multinational nuclear force because, while we in this party have supported NATO as a military alliance set up to provide a deterrent against Soviet aggression in Europe, the fact remains that a nuclear force under the command of NATO would in our opinion present a series of difficulties which we think would make it necessary for Canada to reappraise its whole association with NATO. I will not elaborate on that at the moment.

Let me say one word with reference to the Cyprus situation.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Of course we are not participating in the multinational force.

Mr. Douglas: I should like to know whether or not we are going to participate, whether we have been invited and to what extent we have committed ourselves. This is what I was hoping the minister would say, and if he does not do so on these estimates I hope he will say something on his main estimates.

If I may take a moment I should like to say something about Cyprus. I agree with the minister that Canada has good reason to be proud of the role she is playing. May I also say that the minister himself has played a commendable role in helping to bring about this force, and all Canadians are proud of