

However, I am finding very disturbing this government's statements. It condemned the action against Kuwait, and yet this same government does not condemn actions against other such nations that are small and weak and wherein aggression has happened.

I found it very disturbing that the Ontario caucus chair of this government suggested that the United Nations peacekeeping forces should be withdrawn from Cyprus. Where is the justice? This government sends 2,000 men, 24 planes, and 3 ships. It is going to cost us over \$400 million, and yet the government wants to cut 600 soldiers out of Cyprus. When that is done, the whole balance of Cyprus will collapse. The minister said that we lost two lives in Cyprus. I wonder how many lives we are going to lose in Kuwait.

My question for the minister is: Why the double standard? Does the minister not consider the aggression of Turkey toward Cyprus similar to the aggression of Iraq toward Kuwait? What is the difference here? Is it oil that is the difference? Or, is it that our bosses down in the states say that Cyprus should be divided so that we can have the *status quo* and the Embassy of Russia can be right across from the Embassy of the United States and they can look at each other?

My question is very simple, and I hope the minister will answer it without any rhetoric. Will he indicate today that the United Nations peacekeeping forces of Canadians will stay in Cyprus at their present strength of 600 men, that he will not move them out of there regardless of what suggestions come from his party? Yes or no?

**Mr. McKnight:** Madam Speaker, I understand the hon. member's concern, and I understand why it would appear that he was maybe putting his case in a more forceful manner than would be necessary.

What I said in my address was that the leader of his party had said that Canada did nothing when Cyprus was attacked in 1974. In 1974, Canada had a small contingent of peacekeepers in Cyprus when Turkey attacked—

**An hon. member:** They moved to the south.

**Mr. McKnight:** The hon. member says that they moved to the south. I will inform the hon. member that they received fire from both sides, both Turkish and Greek Cypriots. Canadians who were there at that time attempting to keep the peace received fire from both Turks

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and Greeks on the Isle of Cyprus. During that time, two Canadian soldiers were killed, not by Canadians, I can assure the member, but by the people who were on the island at the time.

The Canadian peacekeeping commitment in Cyprus, I remind the hon. member, is not assessed through the United Nations as are other peacekeeping commitments under the UN auspices. Canada has been supporting that peacekeeping effort for 27 years. That is a commitment to peace. It is a commitment to peace that Canada will carry throughout the world.

The member is asking a question. They are there now. There is another rotation scheduled and there may be another rotation scheduled at that time. I tell the hon. member—I know he must know this—that the mandate is renewed every six months. Therefore there can be a change. But, there is another rotation scheduled, and there is another rotation scheduled, and there may be a change. There may be a change in the United Nations.

The hon. member is asking us now to act outside the authority of the United Nations. I know he does not mean that, and I will sit down at this time.

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, I am sorry that I missed the first part of the minister's speech. I will read it carefully in *Hansard*. There was certainly excitement in the speaker preceding him which attracted certain attention out in the lobby. I apologize to him for that.

There are many issues we could discuss in this brief period. Let me raise two, the first being the field hospital. I am frankly a bit disappointed that the government did not announce this in the House or provide us with the background information in advance of the announcement. I do have, therefore, a couple of questions about it.

First of all, could the minister indicate to what extent there remained, after the disposition of the field hospital resources in response to the British request, other field hospital resources available to the Canadian forces? What alternatives were explored, in particular, in view of the anticipated casualties among civilians on both sides, among the nationals on all sides in this matter? Is Canada looking at any other requests, or is it considering any other disposition? Will it be able to respond to these?