

*Prevention of Military Aggression*

since re-read the comments of the hon. members for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather), Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), Algoma (Mr. Foster), Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) and St. Denis (Mr. Prud'homme).

Many of the points raised in the motion are now under study by the United Nations. Indeed, the hon. member himself quoted from an address made by U Thant, United Nations Secretary General, to underscore the fact that what he was asking for was not impossible of achievement but was actually under discussion. He also suggested that Canada could take initiatives in some of the areas of concern. Indeed, paragraph 3 of his motion reads: provide that the International Court of Justice be empowered to interpret the United Nations charter;

In point of fact, the International Court of Justice has assisted the General Assembly, at its request, in providing interpretations of the United Nations charter. However, there may be a more positive and effective role for the International Court of Justice to play and I think the mover of the motion was trying to highlight that particular point.

Again, the United Nations has accepted in principle the goal of universality of membership and in its twenty-fifth anniversary declaration the General Assembly expressed the hope that all peace-loving states willing to carry out the objectives of the charter would become members. On this subject I read with some interest the comments of the hon. member for Fundy-Royal, and I should like to align myself with the position that he took. He indicated in his address that universality must take on a different definition than that which it now has, to permit what he calls "split-countries" to become members. He referred specifically to Germany and Korea. Countries such as these should have membership in the United Nations.

● (4:10 p.m.)

The motion also refers to providing a United Nations stand-by peace force. This, again, is one of the possibilities under consideration in the special committee on peacekeeping of which Canada is a member. Canada has earmarked forces for use by the United Nations in peacekeeping situations.

The United Nations has also set up a committee on the peaceful uses of the seabed, which is studying the establishment of an international regime for the exploration and exploitation of the seabed resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. This committee is also studying international machinery to implement that regime.

Members who have been fortunate enough to attend as parliamentary delegates at the United Nations, and I count myself one of those, and other members of this House who make the United States their particular area of concern will know that the United Nations has called for a conference on the problems of the human environment, to be held in Stockholm, and Canada is fully committed to ensuring a successful conference which will no doubt have a good deal of influence in developing

international standards of criteria covering global-environmental problems.

As a member who represents a city which is on the border of the United States where we have our problems of pollution of the Great Lakes waters brought about by captains who show no responsibility, and in fact seem to show disdain for these international waters and dump oil and some of their bilge water which is polluted with oil which eventually finds its way on to the beaches of Canada and the United States, I must say we need more adequate surveillance of this kind of thing. The penalties and punishments are there, but until we can locate and pinpoint the particular individuals who are responsible we shall not get anywhere.

It may be that this is almost a parochial subject in that my interest is spearheaded toward the area of global-environmental problems, but if I were to highlight any part of this matter I think it would be that part which Canada plays in promoting economic and social stability in the United Nations system. I think in this area the United Nations has probably had its greatest success. The largest part of the United Nations activities paid for by both voluntary and assessed contributions is devoted to work in the economic and social fields. This work is undertaken by the United Nations Development Program and a complex system of international organizations such as the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization, to name but two.

No doubt others participating in this debate, recognizing its wide ranging possibilities, will see fit to concentrate on one or two of these organizations and the splendid work they do. The mover of this motion knew full well when he moved it, as I did being the seconder of the motion, that it calls for amendments to the charter. It seems to me, on careful reading of the government's policy, that much more can be done now within the context of the charter itself, provided the majority of the member states, including the permanent members of the Security Council, are prepared to take action. Certainly we cannot force them to do so. Nor can we force the pace on the charter review, bearing in mind the serious differences of opinion between the major groupings in the organization.

One of the members in his comments of last November said that bearing in mind the different political philosophies and regimes involved it is amazing the United Nations is able to accomplish anything, let alone the many and varied accomplishments and successes it has enjoyed.

Members of this House are receiving letters, as I am, from concerned citizens not only about the former situation in Nigeria-Biafra but now, of course, the Pakistan problem. The charter of the United Nations does not permit its interfering in an internal conflict, notwithstanding the fact that there is serious loss of life as well as injury to persons and the countless thousands who are suffering from malnutrition and starvation. The United Nations can help and is doing a great, humanitarian job in India where that country permits the United Nations to come in and help cope with the refugee problem. How

[Mr. Cullen.]