

Supply—External Affairs

defeat by agreeing to the resolution calling for a cease fire. I have heard this commentary made more than once by the C.B.C. personnel at the United Nations. We believe that rather than pouring salt in the wounds or hurling brick-bats, the U.S.S.R. should be commended and congratulated, along with all the other member countries, for taking this action.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: Now that the U.S.S.R. has taken this first essential and desirable step, it is to be hoped that she will continue to co-operate by providing materially to the cost that the United Nations will have to undertake in giving effect to the resolution.

At this time, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs has just confirmed, some of the countries involved have not accepted the resolution of the United Nations security council and so the cease fire has not yet been fully effective. However, immediately upon being accepted by all the antagonists involved, the United Nations truce supervisory organization must be prepared to move in and re-establish the presence of the United Nations between the opposing armies in all areas. This is no small matter because first of all it is a very small organization and second, because its headquarters in Jerusalem were overrun and occupied by the Jordanian army followed by the Israeli army.

• (9:00 p.m.)

If the Secretary of State for External Affairs could interrupt his conversation long enough to listen, I would like to point out to him that during the last two or three days since the first reports that UNTSO headquarters have been overrun I have been trying to find out from him whether or not this organization has been regrouped, whether its efforts have been coordinated and what is its status. I even attempted to ask him questions during his speech this afternoon. I do not really think that this should be classified information.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am glad my hon. friend has asked me that question. As of nightfall, local time, this evening we have had confirmation that all the Canadian personnel serving with UNTSO are safe and well. We do not have particulars concerning one soldier in UNTSO who is missing, but the force seems to be secure and I am happy to say that all Canadians with UNTSO are reported safe and well.

Mr. Olson: I am pleased to hear that, but that is not the whole story. I also think there is an immediate need to regroup, re-organize and co-ordinate the activities of all the men in the organization who are in the Middle East at present. We do not know whether or not another headquarters has been established.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, they are occupying a hotel in Jerusalem.

Mr. Olson: This is information we have not had until now. In addition to that, however, we believe that the whole organization should be substantially strengthened because the cease fire lines are apparently going to be rather long. We believe sincerely that every mile needs to be patrolled continuously so that minor outbreaks will not again escalate into massive military operations. I want to say in this respect also that I believe Canada, in spite of some of the reservations that were voiced by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition respecting the change in the Canadian armed forces, will be able to find sufficient qualified personnel within the Canadian armed forces to meet any commitment or any request that is made by the UN.

I am certainly no expert in matters in the Middle East or in external affairs, but I did spend a few days in Israel in November of 1962 so I have some knowledge of the terrain along some of the borders, particularly in northern Israel, between Israel and Jordan, Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon. It is a great undertaking to supervise a truce along these frontiers. Right along the frontiers there are large hills or small mountains and great valleys. The highways along them are not well developed. There are some collective farms, kibbutzes, right up to the border. Therefore, unless a demilitarized zone is established there and a well supervised truce maintained in the area with sufficient men and equipment to do the job properly, in my opinion incidents will continue to occur. This is why I say to the minister tonight that this supervisory organization and the truce commissions should be substantially increased at once. I do not believe we should wait. I think we are justified in calling on our government to take action now to make sure that the personnel is ready to move immediately into any area to which the security council directs them to go.

There is also the tragic plight of hundreds of thousands of people who have been hurt, not only in recent military operations but also