

The Address—Mr. Brooks

recommendations to President Eisenhower by 20 leading men in the United States suggested that it had been a great mistake for the United States and other countries to insist upon Great Britain moving out. It left a vacuum, and as they point out nature abhors a vacuum. We are up against this position today, that there is no stable influence there. The United Nations and some of the western nations are insisting that Great Britain and France move out. Great Britain and France have said that they are prepared to move out, that all they want is some stable influence there to take their place when they leave. They realize, as I am sure all members of this house must realize and as the civilized world today must realize, that if there is no stable influence there Russia will come in and the vacuum will be filled by the communists.

We turn to the United Nations. It has a tremendous job. It is a tremendous problem that is being faced. I listened to the Secretary of State for External Affairs yesterday, and I must say that I enjoyed his speech much more than I did the Prime Minister's. I feel that if the minister did not make so many trips to Ottawa for advice from the government we would probably get better results from the United Nations as far as Canada is concerned.

However, be that as it may, the United Nations has voted to send a police force to the Middle East. How large is this force to be? I listened to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Pearkes), and I was very much taken with his arguments. We cannot just send a force there composed of a few foot soldiers. As the hon. member pointed out, it must be a balanced force. Surely the United Nations appreciated the situation. That is a term that all military men will understand. Those responsible must have looked at the situation and tried to determine how large and what type of force would be necessary to police the Middle East. That should have been done and surely it was done. If it was not the failure to do so was a serious shortcoming on the part of the people dealing with this situation.

I would expect that the secretary general, Mr. Hammarskjöld, who went to Egypt, on his return would have gone into this situation very thoroughly with the military advisers connected with the United Nations. I would expect that the secretary general when he came back to the United Nations would have gone into the matter thoroughly with General Burns, a Canadian general of whom we are very proud, a man I know well and with whom I have been associated in connection with veterans affairs and other

[Mr. Brooks.]

matters on numerous occasions. Surely General Burns was asked what forces he considered necessary for the patrolling and police duties required in the Middle East.

If General Burns has been told, surely the Minister of National Defence has been told what is required from Canada. We have not yet heard from one member of the government what the requirements of the United Nations force may be and how large it will be. Surely the House of Commons, sitting in special session at this time, is entitled to this information. We should be told whether a force of 6,000, 10,000 or 20,000 men is required from the contributing nations. Surely we should be told by our own Minister of National Defence whether Canada should supply an armoured force, whether we should supply a regiment or just what it is that Canada is supposed to supply.

We know that nations such as Norway, Sweden, Colombia, Canada, New Zealand and so on have volunteered to supply men. These men speak different languages and come from many countries. Surely General Burns will have some trouble in controlling a force of this kind. These men are going into a desert. Canadian soldiers are going to a country entirely different from any country they have ever gone to before. That is also true of the Norwegians, the Swedes and all these people. We should know whether we are getting the type of men for the police force who are best suited for the particular land to which they are going. We know that Great Britain and France have had a hundred years or more experience in training for fighting or police work, whatever you may call it, in the desert. But the Norwegians, Swedes and Canadians are men who come from a northern climate, and we are wondering whether they are the men best suited for this particular job.

These are things on which the United Nations must have been advised by Mr. Hammarskjöld and General Burns; and if the United Nations were so advised, that information should have been passed on either by the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of National Defence to this parliament which is being asked to vote money to send this force to the Middle East. It is not my intention to say anything more in this regard.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Brooks: Yes, there is someone applauding.

Mr. Rowe: He does not like it.

Mr. Brooks: He does not say anything himself, so perhaps he is a little jealous of anyone else who does try to say something. We hope sincerely that the United Nations