

*Supply—National Defence*

movies, sport facilities and other matters are being very well looked after now. He told me there were no complaints and seemed to be no difficulties. We hope to keep it that way. I agree entirely that the welfare of the troops is just as important on police duty as it is on any other type of duty when the men are away from home.

**Mr. Thomas:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to pursue this discussion we had a moment ago with regard to the insurance coverage for the members of this special force. I should like to ask the minister a couple of questions on that subject. The first one is this. Under the present circumstances do the line insurance policies have in them a war clause which would bar the soldier from obtaining benefits if he were on foreign soil on what might be considered to be active service? I know that during the last war a great many of the insurance policies did not apply when the soldiers were overseas or outside of Canada anywhere, whether or not they were actually on active service.

That being the case, if it is true today I do not think the minister's statement applies, namely that a soldier in the special force should be treated in the same way as any other soldier; because the soldiers here in Canada, if they encounter a fatal accident or a disabling accident, can draw on an ordinary line accident or life policy. But if the war clause applies on a civilian insurance policy, these boys who are in Egypt may not be able to qualify for a pension or for an insurance payment in the event of death.

I would ask the minister whether or not that coverage does apply. Second, if it does not—and something was mentioned a few moments ago about the United Nations considering taking over the responsibilities—I would ask if either one of the ministers involved would press very strongly that the United Nations accept responsibility in the event of death or mutilation by accident. Third, I would urge upon the minister very strongly that if action is not taken by the United Nations, he reconsider his stand and make sure that these fellows are fully covered by some sort of accident or death policy.

**Mr. Campney:** Mr. Chairman, I shall be glad indeed to look into the situation, both from the point of view of our department and from the point of view of the United Nations. On the question of private insurance policies, whether or not they carry a war clause depends on the company policy of the company concerned. I have had both in my time. However, I think the point which has been raised is worthy of consideration, and I shall be glad to look into it.

[Mr. Campney.]

**Mr. McIvor:** I have listened closely to all the speeches in the debate delivered in English and I have read, as far as I can, all the speeches delivered in French. I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs can go back tonight or tomorrow morning feeling that all sides of this house are backing him up in doing his duty in support of the United Nations. As I read the reports it came to me that Egypt is doing the same old trick the old Pharaoh did when he was forced to allow Israel to walk into freedom. He changed his mind. The ancient enemy of Israel is now bobbing his head up again in order to try to wipe Israel off the earth. They will never be able to do it. It is practically something like that which has happened in Hungary. The devil appeared in another form committing murder. I am proud of those who have spoken in support of the United Nations in stopping this sort of thing. I am convinced that the United Nations is the instrument that is going to do the job. I feel sure that the minister can go back feeling that he has the support of this house and the people of Canada in doing his duty.

**Mr. Michener:** As the hon. member who last spoke has said, we have unanimously approved the principle of this experiment in idealism, if I may call it that, or this venture which is breaking new ground. It seems to me that, as it has been explained, it depends basically on the consent of the parties involved, namely the consent of Britain, the consent of France, the consent of Israel, and the consent of Egypt. The proportions of the force which is being sent and of which our Canadian troops will form a part are such that they will be largely outnumbered by the military forces now in that area. The army of Israel is large and well equipped, and Egypt has substantial forces and substantial equipment. Hence this force is, as I see it, idealistic in the sense that it is adding some material force to moral opinion as expressed in the United Nations. It does not seem to be constituted to do much more.

I appreciate that it is a novel experiment. It is new. There is a great deal of uncertainty, and we are going into it with the knowledge that there is uncertainty. It may turn out well or it may not turn out well. It may turn out very badly. What we are trying to do in approving the estimates is to get as much information as we can at this time on the legal basis for this action and on the material factors that will exist where the force is constituted there.

As I understand it—and I should like either of the ministers to correct me if I am wrong—there is nothing in the charter