

*Supply—External Affairs*

will support our alliance. We will not allow the Soviet union any opportunity of exploiting splits in our ranks because, as I see it, on fundamentals there is no split.

The question of Berlin does not arise in its present context for the first time. We will remember that in November 1958 Premier Khrushchev said that the time had come when there should be a withdrawal from Berlin and that there should be created in that city a demilitarized free zone. We recall too the announcement of Premier Khrushchev at that time that there would be a treaty signed by the Soviet union with East Germany. He called for recognition of East Germany by all nations and particularly the four occupying powers.

Canada has an interest in this matter, although we do not sit in the front seat at the bargaining table, which is not our opposition. Nevertheless we have as vital an interest in this question of Berlin and its consequences as has the United States, Great Britain, France or the Soviet union (a) as a nation among the nations of the world and (b) because of our own legal commitment in regard to situations that could eventuate in modern day Germany.

It must not be forgotten in this context that on October 2, 1954, at London, the western powers of NATO which had met to lay plans for the termination of the occupation of the Federal Republic of Germany and for its incorporation as a state in NATO issued the following declaration, one which will be familiar to the Leader of the Opposition. That declaration is in these terms:

The security and welfare of Berlin and the maintenance of the position of the three powers there are regarded by the three powers as essential elements to the peace of the free world in the present international situation. Accordingly, they will maintain armed forces within the territory of Berlin as long as their responsibilities require it. They therefore re-affirm that they will treat any attack against Berlin from any quarter as an attack upon their forces and themselves.

On October 23, 1954 Canada and the other NATO members associated themselves with this declaration. Therefore, I say the Canadians, as well as the people of the United States and others, have a stake in the problem of Germany and Berlin. In addition, we have an obligation which arises out of article 6 of the North Atlantic treaty, and which states that an armed attack on the occupation forces in Europe of any party to the treaty constitutes an attack against all parties.

Therefore, we have a vital interest in what happens there, apart altogether from the fact that we are a nation of human beings existing in this very turbulent period of world history.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

In 1959, the Canadian government was confronted with the situation that had been created by the ultimatum given by Chairman Khrushchev in November, 1958. There was a NATO conference in 1959, at which time Canada was represented by the then minister of national defence, General Pearkes. I believe that at that time General Pearkes made a very useful contribution to the solution of that problem. He was commended on his view by the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke in the house some weeks later. We do not know whether at the present time the government has sought to relate to the present situation some of the proposals made at that time by its spokesman in Washington. At any rate, I have seen no public reference to them. I think it might be worthwhile now to recall what were some of the positions taken and proposals made by Canada at that time with regard to a situation which in principle is exactly what we are now confronted with although unaccompanied then by the intensity that characterizes the present situation.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I must inform the hon. member that his time has expired. Does the committee give unanimous consent for him to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I thank the committee. The Canadian representative suggested methods by which the United Nations might provide the framework for any agreements in Berlin. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in commenting on the current situation have sought to emphasize the desirability of a potential role for the United Nations in this situation. First of all it is proposed that the basic role of the United Nations might be to verify that all parties were abiding by the terms of the agreement.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Whom is the hon. member quoting?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** These are my interpretations of the position taken by General Pearkes on behalf of Canada at Washington in 1959.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** General Pearkes' representative?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** No, by himself. These are the statements he himself made at the council. It was argued that the essential part of any such agreement would be a Soviet pledge binding itself and its associates to permit full freedom of access to West Berlin and the acceptance of a United Nations presence on the lines of communication.