

*Supply—External Affairs*

of the King, at my suggestion he discussed this matter with the foreign minister of Greece. This was before the establishment of the force. I am grateful to him for doing so, and as a result of this discussion we were able to take some steps which led to a decision.

I realize, Mr. Chairman, that many in Canada are interested in the operation of this force. At no time would I take umbrage at questions related to the directives or the terms of reference given to the United Nations force, not by Canada but the United Nations. Once we joined the force, we recognized that we belonged to a United Nations body. My first meeting with General Gyani impressed on me that this commander of the United Nations force was, obviously and from his record, a very distinguished soldier. I am sure he is also a wise man who understands the delicate command which has been assigned to him. I know that he will discharge his responsibilities in a way which will assist the United Nations force in its endeavour to maintain peace on the island.

The functions of the force are different from the functions of the mediator. Under the terms of the security council resolution, there is no relationship between the two except the obvious one, which would be non-legalistic. The United Nations force is a police body sent to Cyprus by the United Nations for the purpose of preserving order. It will be the function of a mediator to do what he can to unravel the regrettable and tragic differences which prevail between the two communities. We still have problems. I will not be expected to reveal the nature of these. What we all want is to see a force which will preserve order, and I would not want to add to the problems of the United Nations peace keeping force in any way as a result of any comments or responses I might make. I simply remind the committee that both with regard to the terms of reference and the directives which have been issued, we are satisfied that they should enable the force to discharge its obligations as effectively as circumstances on the island will permit; and thus far they have permitted the fullest and most effective operation of the force.

With regard to the status of forces agreement, that has not yet been finalized but the attorney general of the government of Cyprus has given the secretary general an assurance that we may count on the kind of status of forces agreement which existed for the United Nations force in the Congo. It took some three and a half months before that status of forces agreement was concluded.

Finally, in answer to my hon. friend's question may I say that the United Nations

presence through this peace keeping force is essential. I am also satisfied, from all I know about this matter, that the participation of Canada is essential. I am satisfied that if Canada had not taken the decision which it did, we might have been faced with a situation which would have been much more serious—and I will not elaborate on that. I conclude by saying that this operation continues to be in the tradition of Canada under all governments so far as peace keeping obligations to the United Nations are concerned.

The method of financing this operation is by no means satisfactory. As the right hon. gentleman said when he spoke a few days ago, as a result of the ad hoc financing arrangement in this particular situation we may have established an undesirable precedent. I hope not. I believe there was a precedent before, in the financing arrangement for the less important but very desirable observation mission which is now operating in the Yemen, in which Canada plays a part.

The three months duration of the term of this force in Cyprus will come to an end three months from the day when the force became operational, and that was a week ago tomorrow. At that time, under the terms of the security council resolution, the force must come to an end unless in the interval the security council has renewed the authority of the secretary general.

I should like to think that the situation in Cyprus would improve by that time. I have no reason to believe it can or will improve sufficiently to warrant the withdrawal of the force. At that time, regrettably, the United Nations may be face to face with a situation similar to that which existed when this force was being considered prior to March 13. I hope that this whole experience in Cyprus, more particularly in Cyprus than in other similar situations, will cause the nations of the world to recognize that if there is a détente at this time in the relations between east and west, that can only be furthered by giving the United Nations which is the only available body for this purpose, the opportunity of providing for the kind of police forces that are essential in situations such as Cyprus.

I conclude by saying that this country need not have any second thoughts, in my judgment, about the wisdom of the course it took in the establishment of this United Nations peace keeping operation. Our participation was essential and we are honoured to discharge this function alongside countries like Sweden, Finland, Ireland and the United Kingdom and the forces of Cyprus, both communities. All this is designed for the purpose, not of imposing a political solution upon the