

force, I think originally it was a little over 6,200; it is down now to something like 4,600. In the Congo—I think that was the biggest operation—they were very considerable.

Mr. HARKNESS: About 20,000.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes, there were around 20,000. The Canadian contingent at that time was limited, you remember, mostly to signallers.

Mr. HARKNESS: Yes.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I think you would know more about that than I would. It was not that we did not want to give more but I think we were confined to signallers or technicians, and not to paramilitary forces, and that could very well be the situation again.

Mr. HARKNESS: I think the situation there, and the situation in some of the other African and Asian areas, is that there is some prejudice against white faces in these intervention forces, and therefore there is demand for, or at least a greater inclination to have, people that do not have white faces take part in these operations.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I think we have to take into consideration the interests of the countries involved. That could be a factor; I do not say it will be a factor, but it could be a factor. In fact, when the Prime Minister outlined the possible obligation of the international community in New York two years ago, he himself envisaged the very possibility which you have postulated.

Mr. HARKNESS: In view of the situation which has now come up and has just been mentioned, is any consideration being given, in order to obviate that as far as Canada is concerned, to a recruitment of 2,000 or 3,000 of our Indians, who are under-employed in any event, and who, I think, would make very excellent people for a mission of this sort? This prejudice which exists would be circumvented in that way.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I am not going to deny that is a consideration that is worth making careful note of.

Mr. HARKNESS: Has any consideration been given to that? I have never heard about any, and I have wondered on several occasions whether this might not be a way in which Canada could make use of its numerous manpower resources which are not being utilized.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): There would have to be consideration given to certain military aspects of that, but I can say that has not been overlooked.

I would not want to leave my response limited to what I have said. First of all, our participation in the ICC was as a result of a decision that was unanimously made, including a decision by China. There were other Asian member states at the conference in Geneva in 1954. I have no reasons for saying now that prejudice exists, or will exist but it is only right that it should be taken into account.

Our contact, through the Commission with the North has not revealed anything but an acceptance by the North of the presence of Canadian personnel, so much so that the use of the Commission continues to be recognized by all parties.

Mr. HARKNESS: That leads me to another question. How many Canadian military and civilian personnel have we in Vietnam at the present time?