

*Supply—National Defence*

defend itself against attack. I realize that anything is possible, but I think it is highly unlikely that even if hostilities resumed they would be directed against a force carrying the flag of the United Nations.

**Mr. Knowles:** There is one question I should like to ask, and I ask it for information only. The minister may feel that he has given this information to the house, but I believe there is still some confusion about it. The Secretary of State for External Affairs referred to a force in Egypt numbering 6,000 persons, and then he referred to Canada's maximum contribution of 2,500. Are those figures related to each other or does the 6,000 include only 1,000 of Canada's men? Perhaps the minister could answer this question by giving us the figures for each of the eight countries which are contributing to the force. I want to make it clear that I am asking this for information only and I have no criticism of any disparity that may exist as to numbers. We are glad that Canada is taking part in this important undertaking.

**Mr. Pearson:** I find it difficult to be any more precise in this matter than I was a few minutes ago. I wish I had the text of the statement of the secretary general, because I am not sure whether there was a definite time limit in his statement, but as I understand it he announced that within a very short time he expected the force would reach a total of 6,000. That does not mean that two or three weeks after that time 3,000 or 4,000 more may not come, but he expects that 6,000 will be enough to do the job they have immediately in front of them. To show how difficult it is to forecast what that job will be, within the last 48 hours the general in command out there has decided that he needs to send a battalion into Port Said. If the British and French expeditionary forces had left Port Said last week he might have needed only two or three hundred there just for police purposes exclusively, and he might not have needed any a week after that.

The secretary general thinks that to take care of the situation he will need 6,000. That includes 700 Canadians. I understand from a telephone conversation with him this morning that there are 4,400 now. He wants to build that up immediately to 6,000 which will mean 1,600 more, and in those 1,600 additional troops he wants some more Canadians. We have not had details of what he wants. The 4,400 is made up roughly of 700 from Canada, a Swedish transport squadron of 21—I do not know whether these figures have been given any place else—a Norwegian ambulance company of 206, a composite supply platoon from India of 190, 557 infantry from

Colombia, 388 from Denmark, 265 from Norway, 258 from Finland, 346 from Sweden, 714 from India and 765 from Yugoslavia.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Would the Minister of National Defence advise us concerning the code of discipline under which these troops will be serving? Will the Canadians be governed by the Canadian code of military discipline? When punishment has to be dealt out, will the men involved be tried by their own commanding officers or a Canadian court, or will they have to be tried by an Egyptian court or by some international courtmartial? We would like to have some information as to the exercise of discipline and the protection of any of our men who may through some misfortune fall afoul of some commander from some other unit, or the laws of Egypt or elsewhere.

**Mr. Campney:** This matter is now under discussion in the United Nations. But it is our contention, and we are acting on this contention for the present and will continue to do so until there is any change, that our forces will be governed by Canadian law and discipline will be administered under our own Canadian system. As I say, the question is being reviewed now in the United Nations.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Would that apply to any civil offence which might be alleged against a Canadian soldier?

**Mr. Campney:** Yes. We have taken the view that that should obtain. Whether or not we will maintain that, whether other courts of an international nature will be set up or what the final disposition will be I do not know, but as of now that is our contention.

**Mr. Pearkes:** I should like to express the opinion that it is very desirable that we remain firm in that stand.

**Mr. Campney:** We feel quite strongly about it.

**Mr. Hansell:** Might I ask the Minister of National Defence this question. In his opinion, what relationship will the present situation have to the military aspect of NATO? In other words, does the present situation indicate that the military aspect of NATO will be accelerated, or will there be less emphasis on this aspect of NATO? The particular reason I am asking this question is that I have had a civilian delegation wait upon me with regard to the future of the air training school at Claresholm, which is largely for the NATO forces. Evidently there is some feeling that the future of the air training school may not be too secure in that there may be a possibility of retrenchment