

*Supply—External Affairs*

cannot as a country content ourselves with taking the lofty attitude of relatively distant spectators. This is a most serious matter for all countries of the western world. Colonel Nasser's seizure of the canal presents a serious and inescapable issue. It is the issue of main force on the one hand, and the role of international law and the respect for solemn obligations, on the other. In that situation I do not see how Canada properly can refrain from making her position known.

Here is a great opportunity for the United Nations and for Canada as a member of the United Nations unless Russia takes steps to prevent the United Nations from taking effective action. A fair question to be asked in this house is: Where does Canada stand? The stand of Canada and the stand of the government ought to be more clearly made known than it seems to me the minister succeeded in doing this morning in his very brief statement. Perhaps he will enlarge on this later.

The second significant omission concerns the situation in the Near and Middle East. I expect that a question which has been going through the minds of most of us is whether the situation arising out of Egypt's seizure of the Suez canal will affect the attitude of the Canadian government toward the long-pending application of the government of Israel for a permit to purchase 24 Canadian Sabre jet airplanes. This application has been pending for many months. Questions have been repeatedly asked in this house as to when the government is going to make a decision, but we have been met with vague and evasive statements. Now I ask the minister if the situation developing in that area of the world out of the seizure by Egypt of the Suez canal is going to have a bearing on the attitude of the government in relation to this application. If so, what is that bearing, and when may a decision be expected by the house?

The third matter that was not touched on was the matter of the situation in Burma, brought to our attention in a rather startling way yesterday by the headlines indicating an invasion of Burmese territory by troops of the communist government of China. The minister did not even mention that subject in his statement this morning. When he was asked about it later by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, he did offer some reassurance in his indication that the situation might prove to be exaggerated, but this raises another question. We may well hope that the reports are exaggerated. We shall follow with interest the authentic reports that come out of that part of the world, but, whether the report is exaggerated or whether the invasion is as serious as had been pictured in the

[Mr. Fleming.]

first reports, the question naturally arises, and I put it to the minister, does this latest military act on the part of the Chinese communist government have any bearing upon the attitude of the Canadian government in reference to the recognition of the so-called people's government at Peking?

We have been reading in the press of late also about military activities of the communist Chinese forces in Tibet following the over-running of that country some time ago by the Chinese forces. Has that situation any bearing upon the attitude of the Canadian government in reference to the recognition of the people's government at Peking? These are questions that the house is entitled to have answered.

Another matter that significantly found no place in the minister's remarks this morning was the Colombo plan. I recognize that the minister did not set about to make a full review of world affairs, but I mention this matter now because I think that the minister should have something to say by way of enlightenment of the house on the attitude of the government in this regard.

We are dealing this year with a proposed increase of about \$8 million in the appropriation for the Colombo plan. The committee on external affairs had two very interesting and instructive meetings with Captain Nik Cavell, the administrator for Canada of aid under the Colombo plan, an official who enjoys the confidence of the committee and, I am sure, the confidence of all members of this house. I think I have expressed my own view in the past that Canada is fortunate to have as the administrator of aid under this plan an official of the competence and long experience in the Far East of Captain Cavell.

It has seemed to me for some time that there is more support for extended aid under the Colombo plan in this house than the government has been prepared to advocate. As to the need that exists in the Far East for this kind of aid, Captain Cavell left no room for doubt in the mind of anyone who heard him or who has subsequently read his testimony. Let us just mention one or two of the things that Captain Cavell said on that point. As shown at page 148, I said to him:

But you have made it quite plain that aid is going to continue throughout the lifetime of every one in this room?

Mr. Cavell: I think that is so, in some form or other.

In the provision of aid to the recipient countries under the Colombo plan, the purpose, of course, is to enable them, through the provision of forms of capital assistance, to help themselves. It is a sound approach. The need is very great. It is not going to be met