

*The Address—Mr. Legare*

ing in its efforts to ensure peace. And at that moment of extreme anguish—and the C.B.C. enabled us to witness its most pathetic moments—our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) put forth a motion advocating the setting up and the sending of an international police force to bring about and supervise the cessation of hostilities.

Without depriving the hon. minister of the great share of credit to which he is entitled—and I add that he enjoys everywhere a reputation which all diplomats envy him and which honours us—I must say that the proposal for an international police force, of a peace mission to which Canada could participate, had been studied and approved previously by the right hon. Prime Minister and the cabinet and that it was submitted to the United Nations with their assent.

That proposal, one of capital importance at that crucial moment, the only practical one submitted to the confused assembly, received the approval of the vast majority of members of the United Nations. It led to the cease-fire and we are now witnessing the gradual withdrawal of the occupation forces.

All powers, great and small, the world press and even some hon. members to my left who, through force of habit, almost always hold opinions different from ours, have accepted with much enthusiasm the idea of a United Nations police force.

I could quote many opinions of people who warmly welcomed this proposal but I will be satisfied with quoting what the president of Morocco said about this:

The creation of that police force will remain one of humanity's greatest achievements.

I feel I should point out that this police force, to which we have the privilege of contributing, has been put under the United Nations and will take its orders from the United Nations only. Canada is represented on the advisory committee of seven members which sets its terms of reference and which has laid that condition.

The American delegate to the world organization, Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, expressed his feelings in these terms:

The whole matter is a collective responsibility of the General Assembly. No single government can dictate terms for its solution.

It has already been made quite clear that this force is not a fighting force and that it is clearly meant to ensure and maintain peace. If ever the United Nations were to subscribe to the idea of an international army—an idea which has been long advocated—then, and then only, should we pause to consider its advantages or its drawbacks.

[Mr. Legare.]

May I repeat what was said last week by the commander of this peaceful United Nations mission, that great Canadian, General Burns:

Egypt has accepted the presence of United Nations forces on its territory and must therefore accept the Canadians that are part of it.

He was answering a rumour according to which Colonel Nasser had objected to Canada's part in this police action.

Our participation in this action stems primarily from our responsibilities as a member of the United Nations, and then, principally because of the moral responsibility incumbent upon all nations to work towards the maintenance of peace and security.

Mr. Speaker, quite different but highly humanitarian considerations call for our participation in relieving the Hungarian people. More than 60,000 refugees have fled the Soviet hordes, thousands of wounded moan in the ruins of Budapest, while an unknown number of young men have been deported to Siberia in railway cars sealed against any attempt to escape.

The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for refugees, Mr. James Read, who came back from Austria last week, stated last Friday before a United Nations committee:

I have seen Hungarian refugees, men, women and children, poorly clad, shivering from the cold, their faces emaciated from privations and sleepless nights, who could still smile because they had just recovered freedom.

For the past several days, the United Nations secretariat has been receiving offers of assistance for this sorely tried people which has given evidence of unparalleled heroism. Millions of dollars will be required. Moreover, several countries have agreed to accept refugees. Canada's spontaneous contribution greatly honours us and I congratulate the government which is now asking Canadian parliament to ratify it.

I also wish to congratulate the government and more particularly the Department of External Affairs for their valuable co-operation in all the activities of the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies. Our country undoubtedly exerts a deep influence upon that organization. May I add this: When the representative of a country goes to the rostrum at the General Assembly of the United Nations, he is not customarily applauded. Last Friday, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada ascended the rostrum to reply to the abusive language of the representative of the Soviet union, the public gallery burst into applause.

We therefore find that the popularity enjoyed by the present government in Canada extends into the international field. We find its cause in the government's constant endeav-