

Supply—External Affairs

high. There is none for absolving countries with a capacity to pay from their financial commitments.

We believe that the peace keeping operations in the Congo and in the Middle East should be continued as long as they are considered necessary, and this will be a determination based upon prevailing practical and other considerations. It was on this basis that we supported the continuation of the Congo force for a further period of six months, that is until June of 1964. We believe that the United Nations emergency force should be maintained. We would be opposed to curtailing that body if by such curtailment there should result any inefficiency or any failure to provide the stability which is generally desired in the Middle East. We believe the continuing effectiveness of these peace keeping bodies will depend on satisfactory financing arrangements being made.

The most recent peace keeping effort of the United Nations, to which Canada is contributing an important element in the staffing and maintenance of the air component, is the observation mission in Yemen, about which I am sure the right hon. gentleman heard a good deal during his visit to the Middle East a few months ago. The government's decision to meet the secretary general's request for Canadian participation was consistent with our policy of supporting this fundamental aspect of United Nations activity. This was a hazardous experience. It was originally participated in by Yugoslavia, the country which supplied the ground force, and by Canada, which supplied the air component. The governments of the United Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia undertook to supply the necessary finances for an initial two month period. Following further commitments to finance an additional four months' operations, the secretary general has extended the mission until January 4, 1964, at which time the situation will, I expect, be reviewed by the security council.

But I must emphasize in this connection that the United Nations mission in Yemen is strictly a temporary operation limited to observing and verifying the progress of disengagement. It is not charged with the supervision or enforcement of the agreement. Unfortunately, progress on disengagement to date has not been encouraging, and I can only express the sincere hope that the extension of this mission's period of responsibility will afford time for more effective implementation of the agreement. I also expect that time will be utilized in devising some civilian observation machinery more appropriate to the task in Yemen.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Mr. Churchill: Would the minister permit a question? How many Canadians are involved in the operation in Yemen?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I do not have the exact number, but it is somewhere between 20 and 30.

A situation must not be allowed to develop in which the parties would use the presence of the United Nations mission as a cover for the indefinite continuation of their involvement in the affairs of Yemen.

The Canadian delegation at the United Nations is active, as in other years, in many other fields; in promoting disarmament, cooperating in outer space, scientific research in relation to the hazards of radiation, respect for human rights, and the program of economic and social development carried out under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. We shall continue our support for humanitarian programs designed to alleviate refugee problems. We are actively engaged, as a number of the preparatory committee in each case, in the organizing work for the United Nations conference on trade and development in March of 1964, and for the international year of co-operation in 1965. I am happy to take this opportunity of welcoming to our capital Mr. Prebisch, the president of the United Nations trade and development conference, who is in our city today and tomorrow. Certainly the trade and development conference will be a matter of special interest and concern, and I might say that it was the subject of considerable discussion at the meeting of the O.E.C.D. in Paris.

Canada has been able in the United Nations, I believe, as I found in the period when I was there at the beginning of the session and from time to time when I returned, to strengthen bilateral relations with most member states, particularly with the new states of Africa. I have welcomed the occasion to talk to many of the representatives of the African states, to get to know their problems a little better and generally to let them understand the good will and the favourable disposition that Canada has toward them.

The opportunity for personal conversation on a wide range of subjects is, in my judgment, one of the valuable dividends of the general assembly. Another is the ability of the organization to provide its member states with a wide variety of means for bridging and reconciling differences. This may be the real reason for striving ceaselessly to keep the United Nations in working order; for in spite of its imperfections this international instrument has demonstrated its capacity to respond