

*Supply—External Affairs*

an opportunity to discuss this question with Mr. Spinelli, head of the United Nations in Europe and the secretary general's representative in Cyprus, and with Lieutenant-General Gyani, the distinguished Indian soldier to whom has been entrusted the command of the United Nations peace keeping force. There was an opportunity, during these discussions, of conferring on matters inevitably involved in an operation of this kind. The discussions had to do with the establishment of the terms of reference to be extended to the forces by the United Nations, the directives to the force commander and the role that the United Nations force would play in this whole operation.

The secretary general will be reporting one of these days to the security council. It is not possible for me, in the interests of the assignment that has been given to Canada and to other participating members in the United Nations force, to reveal the full directives. However, I am satisfied, and so are my colleagues and the other participating governments, that the arrangements thus far established for the operation of the force are designed to make effective the functions of the force in Cyprus. At the same time, they take into account the understandable interests of the participating countries, which at the present time include the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, and the forces from Finland and Ireland. In the case of Sweden, Ireland and Finland, the full complement of participating forces has not reached the island, but forces are coming every day from these countries. As they join Canadian and United Kingdom forces there is, in accordance with the security council resolution, a withdrawal of British forces, which will reduce to a total of 3,500 as compared with the total of 7,000 British forces in Cyprus when the force became operational last Thursday.

I saw the secretary general a week ago Sunday night. I discussed with him, not only the matters to which I have referred in a general way, but also the desirability of a mediator being appointed at the earliest possible moment. Under the terms of the resolution passed by the security council on March 13, the full authority for the appointment of a mediator resided with the secretary general, but he consulted with a number of countries including Canada. We made known our views to him, since he asked for our advice. While our concurrence in the appointment of the distinguished Finnish diplomat, a former prime minister of Finland, was not essential, his well-known qualities in the field of diplomacy and mediation seemed to us, as they did to others concerned with the island of Cyprus,

to indicate that he would be the kind of man to whom this very difficult task could be entrusted.

The arrival of Canada as a member of the force was greeted with gratitude by all sections of the island of Cyprus, notwithstanding some stories in the paper only yesterday that some criticism was made. There was general relief on all sides about the establishment of the force. Because we were the first to arrive, great satisfaction was expressed at the decision of Canada to participate in the force, and to do so on terms which did not demand any financing of our participation out of the resources supplied voluntarily by a number of countries, notably the United States and the United Kingdom.

The other day Archbishop Makarios welcomed the United Nations commander and spoke with gratitude of the presence of the United Nations force in Cyprus. It is significant that a vice president who represents one of the other communities on the island also expressed directly to the commander—as indeed he did directly to the Canadians—his satisfaction at their presence and his assurance of co-operation. This is, as was pointed out by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam when we discussed this question a few days ago, a difficult operation, and we were wise to anticipate that the difficulties may be greater than they now seem to be. However I hope this anticipation will not be justified. We are ready, and we indicated when we joined together in supporting the decision for Canadian participation, to face the dangers which it is anticipated may lie ahead.

I am satisfied that the force went to Cyprus at a crucial time. We decided to participate in this force the day after Turkey indicated her dissatisfaction at the conditions prevailing on the island. I had an opportunity when in Geneva to discuss this matter in greater detail with Mr. Erkin, the foreign minister of Turkey. He expressed his country's satisfaction that the force had been established and that Canada was participating in it. I also had an opportunity when in Geneva to discuss with one of the ministers of the government of Greece matters involved in our participation. I need only report to the committee that the same satisfaction and gratitude was expressed by the government of Greece. So that we have all of the official bodies on the island, in Greece and in Turkey which have an interest in the preservation of order supporting our participation in this United Nations force.

Just to make my story complete, I should add that when the Minister of Industry was in Athens the other day attending the funeral