

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am aware that at one time there was a strong suggestion that ICAO might move its headquarters away from Canada, but I believe talk of that kind has subsided. I have not been hearing anything of it for the past year or more. There can be no finality about matters of this kind, but my understanding is that there is a reasonable degree of satisfaction now, certainly a greater degree than previously, with the retention of the headquarters at Montreal.

Mr. Benidickson: For the past year, then, our apparent subsidy or assistance to encourage the maintenance of this international organization in Montreal would include the item of \$40,000-odd which we are now discussing. To this item should we add the item of \$215,000 in the estimates of 1960-61? In other words, would it be about \$255,000?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The total is \$256,494, with the inclusion of the requested additional sum.

Mr. Benidickson: For the current year, the subsidy is \$256,494 to encourage the maintenance of ICAO in Montreal in the building that otherwise would charge rents beyond what is being charged to them?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Item agreed to.

677. Assessment for the United Nations Congo ad hoc account for 1960 in an amount of \$1,506,232 U.S., notwithstanding that payment may exceed or fall short of the equivalent in Canadian dollars, estimated as of February, 1961, which is, \$1,493,000.

Mr. Pearson: This is a vote of almost \$1,500,000 for Canada's assessment for the United Nations Congo ad hoc account. Can the minister give the committee some information as to the purpose of this vote?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is Canada's share of an assessment for the United Nations Congo ad hoc account for the year 1960. The United Nations operation in the Congo was established by the security council in July last. I do not think I need to go over all of the details. Hon. members are aware of the necessity of providing funds for this purpose, and of the steps taken at the fifteenth session of the assembly for this purpose.

The resolution passed at the assembly last year permitted the secretary general to expend first of all \$15 million, and then later \$40 million. When he presented his estimates for the Congo operation for the last six months of 1960 only they were in an amount totalling over \$66 million. The secretary general put these costs in the supplementary

estimates for 1960. No budget has yet been drawn up for the 1961 operation and that subject is being discussed in New York at the present time at the resumed fifteenth session.

So far as the distribution of the burden of these expenses is concerned, the obligation rests on members in accordance with article 17 of the United Nations charter. Several countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, agreed to absorb certain claims so as to reduce the large over-all total of the cost of the operation. Canadian bills for the cost of the initial airlift of the Canadian contingent to the Congo amounting to some \$600,000 were absorbed by Canada and have not been carried into the cost chargeable to the United Nations.

The Canadian government has indicated Canada's strong support of the United Nations operation in the Congo from its inception. All political considerations point to the necessity of continued Canadian support for United Nations action in the Congo. Canada's share of the cost of the operation in 1960, on the basis of the regular scale of assessments, is \$1,506,232, and this present estimate is designed to provide that sum in United States dollars.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I am not opposed to this appropriation in any way. I am anxious, however, to have it made clear that this appropriation, from what the minister has said, is in addition to the expenses we bear for our own forces in the Congo. We pay the expenses of our own forces and in addition we are subscribing approximately \$1½ million to the general fund to cover the expenses of the Congo intervention. So, unlike the situation in Palestine, I believe, we are not being credited in this fund for the expenses of our own contingent. I am not complaining about that. Canada is one of the countries trying to play their role in the Congo, at times without much co-operation from the Congo authorities themselves, and I think it should be made clear that Canada is one of the countries trying to play its part by providing for all the expenses of its own intervention and also making a contribution to those United Nations forces from countries that charge their expenses to the United Nations. Is that the situation?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Perhaps it is not quite that. We have not received any reimbursement whatever so far from the United Nations on account of the expenditures we have incurred in supplying Canadian forces in the Congo. That is not to say that we do not hope some day to recover some portion