

*Supply—External Affairs*

**Mr. Olson:** I thank the minister and perhaps later he can tell us whether Canada intends to support that resolution.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I would simply like to say that the Canadian government is engaged in careful consideration of this problem in consultation with other countries. When the Canadian position on this matter has been finalized the house will be advised.

**Mr. Olson:** But the general assembly will be meeting on December 1 and it is now November 19.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** This question may go on for months.

**Mr. Olson:** The minister says it may go on for months, but I imagine it might be one of the first items dealt with by the assembly. I presume the seating arrangements would be high on the agenda. Anyway we have now received more information than we had a few days ago, and I hope the minister will keep the house informed on Canada's position.

Dealing with the financial crisis in the United Nations, article 19 of the charter provides that member nations shall lose their votes if they fall more than two years in arrears in paying their assessments. A number of nations are about to fall into this category and we only hope a direct confrontation on this question can be avoided if the results of such a confrontation were the withdrawal of some of the larger nations from the organization.

I also note that the United States has so far delayed its commitment to the United Nations voluntary assistance programs. In withholding its pledge it appears that the United States may be engaged in a bit of arm twisting with respect to the votes of Afro-Asian nations, which are the ones who benefit most under these programs.

We certainly hope the United States is not engaged in brinkmanship in this respect—trying to persuade the Afro-Asian nations to support its motion under article 19 of the United Nations charter when this question comes before the world organization. The reason I call this "brinkmanship" is because the Secretary of State for External Affairs has expressed some optimism in the last few days that the United States will finally make its usual pledge with respect to the 40 per cent of the total of these assistance programs. If the United States is holding back, engaging in arm twisting to get the Afro-Asian nations to support it in the action it intends to take under article 19, I must say that

we in this party do not approve an attitude of that kind. We feel the United Nations is far too important as a forum for negotiating the important problems which arise around the world from time to time to be placed in jeopardy because of this kind of pressure.

I recognize this does not provide an answer to the question as to what must be done to encourage those nations which are delinquent in meeting their assessments to come forward and pay them. I realize this is an extremely difficult problem. But we would not like to see the whole organization placed in jeopardy because some nations have not paid their assessments and because, in an attempt to see that they live up to their obligations under the charter, the United States is threatening to withhold its voluntary contributions to the technical assistance program.

I wish in conclusion to draw attention to one other matter, the progress of the peace keeping operation in Cyprus. It appears that the Cyprus situation has settled down and become relatively quiet in the past two weeks. I believe Canadians can take pride in the fact that this peace keeping operation has enjoyed its present degree of success in keeping a dangerous situation from spreading and becoming far more serious. I think the minister should be congratulated on the initiative and on the decisive action he took earlier this year in getting this peace keeping force on to the island in time. I am confident it was largely as a result of the initiative taken by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that this force was in position in time to avert a situation which might have developed to a point at which it would have been difficult for all concerned to turn back.

To sum up, I should be obliged if the minister would give us an outline of what is happening at the United Nations with regard to the serious position which has arisen because of the failure on the part of some countries to pay regular assessments, together with the indication by the United States that it may withhold its voluntary pledge to the assistance program. Perhaps too the hon. gentleman could tell us what positive action the government intends to take with respect to red China.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Chairman, my remarks, this afternoon, will be very brief. Today, on the orders of the day I put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr.