

The Address—Mr. Harkness

place. Trans-Mountain is a privately-owned pipe line. However, I will try to obtain such information as the government has and answer the question tomorrow.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, November 28, consideration of the motion of Mr. Legare for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Rowe.

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I had almost completed my remarks last night but was in the midst of pointing out that we in this house during this debate have really had no information in regard to the composition, the total numbers or the functions of this United Nations police force which is a matter on which I think the entire Canadian public would like to have more information. It is a matter concerning which there is a good deal of confusion and I would hope that the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of National Defence might be able to give us the latest information concerning the points and tell us exactly what the situation is.

As far as one is able to make out from various newspaper accounts, the functions of this United Nations force which the minister a moment ago said were important functions are to police the canal zone and to police a strip of border territory between Israel and Egypt, a strip along the Israeli-Egyptian border.

I notice in today's paper a reported statement by Mr. Hammarskjöld which says:

Hammarskjöld said the "provisional" target for size of the force is two combat brigades totalling some 6,000 men.

I would submit, Mr. Speaker, if that is the total size of the force envisaged it would appear to be very inadequate to carry out these two functions of policing the canal zone and policing the border strip between Israel and Egypt.

Also, as far as I can see, the composition of this force is almost entirely an infantry force. I think perhaps infantry might be able to do the policing in the Suez canal zone fairly readily but I would submit that as far as maintaining the border strip through that desert country is concerned infantry would be very poorly adapted for that purpose. I would hope that some other sort of force would be provided.

The ideal force, I believe, would be a reconnaissance regiment. Canada, of course, does not have a reconnaissance regiment so

cannot help out from that point of view, but if there is no reconnaissance regiment available then I should think the need might be met by providing a jeep force.

The Queen's Own Rifles is an extremely good regiment. I went to say goodbye to them before they left Calgary. They departed full of high spirits and with extremely good morale. I have seen them on parade on several occasions and they are an excellent unit from every point of view. I think it is extremely unfortunate that they have been sitting in Halifax for the past three weeks kicking their heels and not knowing what is the definite situation—

An hon. Member: They are better off there than in Calgary.

Mr. Harkness:—which is not going to help the morale of the army and the other defence force generally.

In any event a regiment of that sort could be supplied with jeeps somewhat along the lines of those which were used by the jeep forces of the special air service force and the special boat service force during the last war. They were provided with jeeps which were mounted with twin heavy machine guns. They carried four men each and made deep penetrations behind the enemy lines. As a result of this twin machine gun armament they had an extraordinarily heavy fire power and were really in a position to take on anything except armour. They did extremely good work and I believe a force of that sort could be quite readily provided. There are plenty of jeeps and there are plenty of machine guns, and in lieu of a "Recce" regiment, in other words, a light armoured force, I think this government should do everything possible to ensure that the border force between Israel and Egypt is supplied with jeeps of this nature so that they are mobile and can do the job properly.

I do not think anything except a mobile force which is able to travel more or less anywhere—and this is one of the great advantages of jeeps, they can get through almost any type of country—is capable of doing the job properly. Therefore, I put this thought out for the consideration of the government and would hope something along that line might be done.

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, having regard to the world situation today and the dangerous implications that become more and more apparent in the Middle East and the actions being taken by the U.S.S.R. in various parts of Europe, no debate I have participated in since coming to this house has been, in my opinion, fraught with greater consequences