

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Why not?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The reason is that to be intelligible it would have to be broken down in such a way as to disclose the weeks of intense and other forms of activity. Since the period is not a very long one it might give indication of intention.

Mr. RALSTON: I wonder if that is quite the situation? I understand that when one is estimating casualties one estimates so many weeks or months of intense activity, so many months normal and so many months quiet. I am not talking about that. I am talking about the pool, and on the basis of a pool generally the estimate is on so many months or weeks of intense activity. I do not think there is any possibility of giving any information to the enemy if we estimate intense activity. Without giving the numbers of the pool, how many weeks of intense activity would you feel that you should provide for by way of a pool in Italy? I do not think the distinction you make applies to pools; I think it applies to estimated casualties.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: There is a set formula for that, and I think it would be very difficult to justify giving out information from which those rates could be calculated back. I do think that in discussing these matters in open session I must if anything err on the side of caution. We intend to give as much information as we can when there is no danger in discussing the matter, but in open discussion I am fearful that —

Mr. RALSTON: All I want to know is how many months of intense activity was calculated. I am not asking for the numbers; I simply want to know how many months of intense activity were calculated in planning the pool. Generally a pool is calculated on three months of intense activity, that is, on the basis of the casualties which would be suffered in three months of intense activity. Is that correct?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No, that certainly is not. The pool is built up upon the basis of the operation; it is assessed upon the nature of the operation. The casualties and wastage rates and so on are assessed and then provisions to replace the casualties are laid down. I do not think that the pools would be the same on any two occasions.

Mr. RALSTON: There would be a variation in the numbers, but is not that generally the basis upon which the target of the pool is fixed? You do not change the pool target every day or every month.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: I would not say that that is the case, because on many occasions in calculating operations I have had to take these matters into consideration. The size of the pool, the size of the reserve, is fixed according to the particular operation you have in front of you. Then your safety factor is worked out.

Mr. RALSTON: But you estimate for how long ahead?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: It is related to the campaign.

Mr. RALSTON: With regard to the overall pool in the United Kingdom, is not the size of that pool based upon a definite number of months of intense activity? I am not dividing it into battle areas.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: The reserves in the United Kingdom have to be figured on a different basis from that which would be the case if the troops came from the United Kingdom. We have to allow for the time of transporting troops across the Atlantic, and we must provide cushions against that. It is not the distance, it is the time taken to get our troops from this country into the forward area that counts. All those factors have to be taken into account.

The staff have prepared a most comprehensive table which is made up much in the form the hon. member for Prince has indicated. This shows what we have planned and laid out. There have been changes in some cases from the plans that were previously in effect and with which the hon. member is thoroughly familiar. I think this table would provide a clear understanding of the matter if we were free to take it from beginning to end. It has been so put together by the staff that the monthly requirements are shown, but it is hardly possible to work back to these specific rates. You could not give the different weeks of activity that were contemplated and then work back from that.

This table gives figures that the house would want in terms of men and it shows clearly the supply position that existed. I do not believe it is possible to give a clear understanding of this position at this time, and it is most important that we should all have a clear understanding of this very complicated position because it is basic to everything we do. We want to put that in front of hon. members in some way that will not carry comfort to the enemy.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They would not be able to use it.