

*Supply—External Affairs*

be required in such an emergency. The countries concerned could submit lists of personnel with certain qualifications which could be kept on file with the secretary general as a sort of continuation of the experts bank which was introduced and accepted by the general assembly a couple of years ago.

As to military forces, each country could very well submit to the secretary general a list of military forces which they would be willing to contribute at a moment's notice, should an emergency arise. When an emergency does arise the secretary general would not be faced with the situation of having to telephone one country that he might consider suitable, asking that country, "Can you contribute items a, b and c," and having that country say, "We do not know; we will let you know in a week". Valuable time is lost in an emergency situation. If the various countries concerned that have contributed in the past, and some others, would supply the secretary general with lists of military equipment and personnel they could provide at a moment's notice, the secretary general, should an emergency situation arise, could look at the lists of Canada, Brazil and Sweden, for example, and see that they were prepared to contribute certain things that would be suitable. Thus valuable time could be saved.

I realize full well that, in view of certain problems the secretary general has with the Soviet union and France about paying for these operations, it might well be that it would cause the secretary general some embarrassment to have such lists deposited with him formally, and it might well be that some sort of semi or quasi-United Nations organization could be formed which would not be directly a part of the United Nations but which could make these arrangements. The president of this organization could keep lists which he could give to the secretary general, if necessary.

These are just some of the questions that will have to be considered by the government and by other governments concerned. I hope that the government pursues this matter. I understand they are going to be doing so and I wish them well because I think it is a very valuable type of work.

The next point is the question of our relationships with the commonwealth. The Secretary of State for External Affairs mentioned how active the government was in supporting the commonwealth and referred to the great heritage and the fine relationships. I am glad to hear that, but I think that the Secretary of State for External Affairs might have gone a little farther and told us just what we are going to do to try to promote this situation

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

further. In the military field we have heard suggestions that we should have military forces available or in training to help the United Nations; but what about the commonwealth?

Last year India was attacked by China and eventually we were able to send some military equipment. India is still threatened, and what about the new state of Malaysia? It is certainly threatened by Indonesia. If something happens in either of these places, what are we going to do? Are we going to send equipment or troops, or both, to help our partners in the commonwealth?

I would hope this matter could be clarified and some idea given as to what we are going to do. I realize that each situation is different and may have to be decided according to the circumstances at the time, but I think it should be made clear to us in this debate what the intentions of the government are in this respect. Are we going to help our commonwealth brothers if they are attacked, or are we going to stand by? If we do help them, are we going to give them equipment only or equipment and men, and to what extent? These are things that I think will have to be considered very carefully.

Foreign policy, of course, should be very flexible and should keep up with the times and circumstances. In this regard it has been pointed out that the People's Republic of China is apparently intent on pursuing her aggressive course in the world. While it is quite true that the Soviet union apparently has decided to follow another course and perhaps try to achieve her objectives by other than military methods, the People's Republic of China has not. Since it seems to me that at the moment there is at least some lessening of tension between the Soviet bloc and the west I would suggest, in view of the behaviour of China, that perhaps we should direct our attention more to the Pacific at the moment. I would hope that the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his colleagues would give very careful consideration to whether or not we should possibly become involved in some alliance in the Pacific. I think this matter should be looked into at the present time. In view of the lessening of tension between the west and the Soviet union and the constant pressure and increase of tension in the eastern part of the world, I think this is something which must be given the most careful consideration, if it has not already been given such consideration. There is no use trying to form alliances and make arrangements after the trouble starts. These things should be foreseen and the arrangements made in advance. I know that China is away across the Pacific, but today distance does not mean very much. I know that