

Supply—External Affairs

The atmosphere at the current assembly appears calm in the sense that the tensions between the communist and the non-communist blocs have eased, thus eliminating one familiar obstacle to constructive action by the world body. But one direct consequence of understanding in one area has been to cause renewed activity in another of no less importance. I refer to race relations, which now emerges as one of the dominant factors in international affairs. The African states are understandably aroused at the failure of their persistent efforts in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies to bring about any appreciable change in the policies of South Africa and Portugal. These and other issues of colonialism and racial discrimination are being featured prominently in the assembly debates. The aims and objectives sought by the African members are shared by almost the whole membership, but there is a substantial area of doubt about some of the measures proposed for achieving their desired ends.

Canada has consistently urged under this government, under the preceding government and under the government before that, that the membership of the United Nations should be comprehensive in character, and this is the fundamental reason we are opposed to any move to have members expelled from the United Nations. South Africa and Portugal have become the immediate object of such moves, which could have much wider application. There are within the organization other member states whose policies are just as repressive and just as discriminatory as the ill advised and repugnant policies now being followed by these two countries. In all cases we believe that such policies are more likely to be modified if they are kept under close scrutiny by the United Nations than if the states concerned were to be expelled. Moreover, we believe that all such measures which conform strictly to the letter of the charter of the United Nations could, unless carefully observed, create a situation resulting in far reaching harm to the United Nations itself. The government has made clear—

The Chairman: I am sorry I have to interrupt the minister. Is it agreed that he continue?

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I thank the committee, because I should like on this occasion to make as careful and as comprehensive a statement as possible so as to outline the position which the Department of External Affairs and the government are taking at this time.

I made clear at the United Nations the position of Canada and its determination and desire to see the United Nations strengthened in every possible way, particularly as regards capacity to engage in peace keeping operations. We have urged other member states to follow the example of countries like Canada, the Scandinavian members and now the Netherlands, which have taken steps to prepare their national forces for emergency service with the United Nations.

We have called for the establishment of a compact military planning team in the secretariat to assist the secretary general in the conduct of peace keeping operations involving military personnel and equipment. We have offered to share with other governments our experience which we have gained from extensive participation in peace keeping operations over a period of many years in the United Nations and, pursuant to the Geneva accord of 1954, and through Canadian participation in the three international supervisory commissions operating in Viet Nam, in Cambodia and in Laos. We see the suggestion for extensive participation outside the United Nations by interested countries as a possibility for giving strength to the idea of a world peace force together with the suggestion of improvements to the secretariat by providing for the possibility of staff training for United Nations military operations. We are examining intensively, in this context and in others, ways in which these improvements can be achieved.

An important aspect of United Nations peace keeping relates to the financing of these ad hoc operations, principally those in the Congo and in the Middle East. We have been greatly concerned in recent times, as members of this house are, about the growing deficit in relation to the peace keeping accounts of the United Nations. The secretary general has estimated that this might be about \$140 million by the end of 1963, and it is an indictment of our time that it should be possible for us to provide so readily, as we must, for our defences when at the same time it is so difficult to get the necessary moneys to keep functioning properly the organization that was established at San Francisco to try to substitute pacific means, conciliation, adjudication and discussion, for settling disputes between nations, instead of resorting to force.

We believe that the financial burden should be shared by all members of the United Nations, not only by some of the great powers and some of the lesser powers but by all the great powers and all the nations. There is room, of course, for offering the less developed countries some measures of relief from their assessments when peace keeping costs are