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Mr. Pearson on Palestine Question: Following is partial text of statement on the Palestine question delivered by Mr. L.B. Pearson in sub-Committee. One of the United Nations ad hoc Committee on Palestine, November 4, 1947:-

"....The urgency of determining the methods of implementation is magnified by the declared intention of the mandatory power to withdraw from Palestine in the near future. Whatever plan is adopted for the settlement of the Palestinian question, there is danger that events will over-reach us, that we will be unable to take effective action in time, and that confusion and disorder will follow upon the withdrawal of the mandatory power. It is with these possibilities in mind that the sub-Committee must consider how best the majority report could be put into effect; leaving it for the ad hoc Committee and the Assembly to decide whether or not these or other measures shall be adopted.

"We now have three sets of proposals before us - one presented by the Delegate of Guatemala, one by the United States Delegation, and a third by the USSR Delegation. None of us, I think, is at this stage prepared to do more than discuss the merits of these various proposals and in the hope that it may assist in the process of finding common ground on which to base a solution for the Palestine problem the Canadian Delegation wishes to add its comments to the general discussion.

"In the first place, we must recognize that what is contemplated by the report is a major political operation for the successful execution of which, if the General Assembly decides to take affirmative action, the United Nations itself must assume grave responsibilities. We are now confronted with a problem which will strain the resources and endanger the prestige of this organization, and it is urgently necessary, not only for the people of Palestine but for the whole United Nations that we find a solution.

"If the political operation recommended in the majority report is to be undertaken, we must make sure that the means chosen have three qualities, in particular: namely that they are constitutionally sound, practicable and effective. In our view, the withdrawal of the mandatory would create a legal vacuum in Palestine. The legal question, therefore, resolves itself into the question of what action the United Nations can take, or institute, whereby the legal vacuum may be filled in the manner contemplated by the majority report. In regard to the second point, the means chosen must be practicable. They must be the means best calculated to bring about a rapid and peaceful settlement in Palestine when the mandatory withdraws. There will be great administrative difficulties under any system. We must, by anticipatory action, endeavour to make sure that these administrative difficulties are kept to a minimum. Careful consideration should also be given in advance to the steps which could or might be taken by the United Nations should the settlement not work out peaceably in the manner contemplated.

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