

*The Address—Mr. Rowe*

interest lay in the crisis and particularly what action was called for on their part.

As a member of the commonwealth and as the geographical neighbour of the United States, our membership after the first war in the League of Nations and after the second war in the United Nations, of course extended the security system so that the possible area of operations in which we might become involved was greatly extended. As we all know, we took part in United Nations action to preserve the Korean republic. We have for some years furnished observers to the truce teams in Kashmir and in Palestine. While not directly arising out of our membership in the United Nations, Canada has had an important part in manning the truce supervisory commissions in Indo-China.

Since the second world war, when the menace to world peace of nazi Germany was removed, the principal threat to world peace and security has come from the aggressive activities of the Soviet Union and its associated states including communist China. Our decision to take part in UN action in Korea was part of our realization that the security of the free world depended upon successful collective action to curtail world communism. The prompt and decisive action taken at that time by the United Nations force, including troops from Canada, the United Kingdom and other commonwealth countries, was a frank and wise recognition of the menace of communist aggression. While it was started by the United States with the approval of the United Nations as a whole, it was the only semblance of constructive action since the second world war.

Since the accession to power in Egypt of Colonel Nasser and his regime, we have received many disturbing reports of the growth of Soviet influence in Egypt and the Mediterranean area. Last year armaments, including aircraft from the Soviet Union and from Czechoslovakia, were made available to Colonel Nasser, as well as technical experts from Russia to instruct the Egyptians in the use of this equipment. Our government was probably not the only one to turn a blind eye to the great dangers to world security arising from the increase of Soviet influence in the Middle East. However, after the revelations at the beginning of the last session of parliament, we must regretfully conclude that our government's main concern in the Middle East was to unload surplus Canadian war material on the countries there. In the light of the developments during the past few weeks, this is surely a shocking commentary on the lack of thought, foresight or decision

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our government gave to the steadily increasing crisis in the Middle East. No wonder this government, while extending their long trips among peoples abroad, are losing the confidence of our people at home.

It is these facts also which make us so anxious regarding the security of Canada against aggression. Our government appears to have been influenced almost exclusively by the administration in Washington, both in its comments and in its actions in the Middle East crisis. Had the policy of the United States been wiser and more vigorous than our own this might not have been so unfortunate. In this event, however, the United States government seems to have committed a series of blunders in the Middle East which finally left the United Kingdom and French governments with no alternative but to bring force to bear in the Middle East, if their interest in that vital area was not to be given up in the face of rising Soviet power there. Surely our government would not deny that the Soviet union has been aiming at control of the whole Middle East through its policy toward Egypt and the Arab countries and through its consistently unfriendly attitude to the state of Israel.

Right Hon. Winston Churchill, with all his experience in international crises, only a few days ago had this to say:

I am a patron of the United Nations association in this country, but I cannot agree that their rebuke to this government was either wise or helpful.

Would they have preferred us to flounder in impotence and see the whole Middle East gradually slip into chaos and Russian domination?

As time passes, I hope that the association will see with clearer eyes the true interests of the United Nations and the whole world.

These remarks might apply with equal force and indeed with some embarrassment to the government which sits to your right, Mr. Speaker.

If our government had been following the course of events in the Middle East, as we would expect it to do, it would surely not have been as "distressed and dismayed" as the Secretary of State for External Affairs said it was when he gave his press conference on October 31. An ostrich raising its head from the sand might have felt the regret and shocked surprise which apparently rent our cabinet. I do not think a well-informed government, conscious of the implications of Soviet strength in the Middle East, would have been so surprised.

Whatever the division of opinion within the cabinet as a result of the British and French ultimatum to Egypt and Israel on October 30, the idea put forward by the opposition through the hon. member for