

Supply—External Affairs

entered into almost 100 years ago. That is why the only treatment he deserves is the kind of treatment that he will understand.

I respectfully submit, Mr. Chairman, that fearless strength must be demonstrated if any value in the future is to be placed on an international agreement or treaty. If Nasser's action is to go unchallenged with all the vigour the civilized world can command, the value of international relations in the future will always remain in doubt. International covenants must be respected. They are sacred. Without them our civilized structure must collapse; and this, Mr. Chairman, must not happen.

The role our country is now playing in international affairs, therefore, justifies it in taking the lead if necessary in urging a vigorous course of action. Canada assumed a righteous role in helping the state of Israel to be established. It is my respectful opinion that we can likewise be helpful in restoring peace in the Middle East, but I am convinced that the most effective way of doing that is to help Israel become strong, to a point that it will deter aggression.

We should no longer accept the argument that giving weapons to Israel will fan the flames of instability in the Middle East. Israel did not cause the nationalization of the Suez canal by Colonel Nasser; Israel did not make the deal which gave Russia a foothold in the Middle East; Israel did not demand the recall of General Burns for doing a masterful, if thankless, task in trying to retain some modicum of peaceful control of the border areas between Israel and her neighbours. If all this is true, and I submit it is true, then the recent events which have stirred the embers of Middle Eastern affairs to a new heat abundantly justify the immediate strengthening of Israel, which is *de facto* strengthening our own position.

I therefore respectfully urge upon the government that the most effective role Canada can play in maintaining peace, as well as the dignity and self-respect of the western world, is to take immediate steps to persuade the other western powers to demur no longer, and to help create a show of defensive strength in the Middle East which will go a long way to safeguard the peace of the world.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I am as anxious, I think, as any member of the committee to get ahead with the estimates, but I believe that before proceeding the committee would expect me to try to deal with some of the questions which have been raised in the discussion and which have been addressed

to me. It has been said by one or two speakers that in my earlier statement I had omitted to deal with some very important developments. No doubt that is true. I tried to keep within the 30-minute limit, but those other matters have been brought up during the course of the discussion, and I may have a word to say about them now.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether before doing so I can, though not a member of the committee on external affairs—I merely had the honour of appearing before it—associate myself with the very generous tribute paid to the chairman by the hon. member for Prince Albert.

The hon. member for Prince Albert, in his very interesting speech, raised one or two questions which I should like to deal with briefly. He asked whether I could say anything more than I did say about the work of the committee of three of NATO that is looking into the question of non-military co-operation. It is true that I merely mentioned that committee. Of course one obvious reason for that is that the committee is in the middle of its work, and as a member, only one of three members, it is not easy for me to speak about that work at the present time. However, I can say that we had a very useful first meeting in Paris not very long ago, and at that time we decided to send to all the member governments of NATO a questionnaire, a long and detailed questionnaire, about all aspects of non-military co-operation we could think about in order to get the views of governments before proceeding with the drafting of our report. That questionnaire, for instance, has been in the hands of the Canadian government for some time and our answers to the questions I hope are to be considered by the cabinet this week. When these questions are all completed it is the intention of the committee to meet in Paris and discuss each answer with a minister representing the government which has submitted the answers, and to have an exchange of views with those governments, after which we shall proceed with our report.

The hon. member for Prince Albert also—and this is another NATO matter—mentioned the situation in Iceland. It is one, of course, which is worrying to the NATO organization, and it is one that has been discussed already in the NATO council. I am hopeful that as a result of those discussions, this difficulty over the United States air base in Iceland can be solved, and that Iceland will continue to give strong and steady support to the organization. It is an important matter because the base is an important one; but probably just as important as the