

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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SOME ASPECTS OF CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Excerpts from a speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in the House of Commons, August 1, 1956.

In the House in January last, I made a fairly comprehensive statement on some of the major aspects of our policy. At that time I dealt more particularly with an analysis, in so far as we were able to make it, of the recent changes in Soviet leadership. I discussed the situation in the Middle East and also, at that time in January, the situation in the Far East.

So far as the latter subject is concerned, there has been no substantial change in the situation in the Far East since I spoke in January; nor has there been any change in Canadian policy with respect to it. That situation, particularly in and about the Formosan straits, remains potentially dangerous as long as two Chinese armies face each other only four or five miles apart, but it has not in recent weeks or even in recent months deteriorated.

The Middle East - Suez

So far as the situation in the Middle East is concerned, the long and bitter dispute between the State of Israel and its Arab neighbours continues. That situation, while still tense, has not—and this is as far, I think, as anyone would dare go,—has not grown worse since I talked about it last. Incidents, which continue on the frontiers and which are likely to continue in the present atmosphere, have not, at least, exploded into war. The United Nations Secretary-General in two visits to the area has made a useful and constructive effort to lessen tension in that area, and by his intervention he has, I think, succeeded in strengthening the truce. I know that on the cease-fire and the truce which he has helped to strengthen he hopes to build an arrangement which will be more permanent.

I think we can also pay tribute at this time to the activities of the United Nations Truce Commission in Palestine, in which several Canadian officers are now serving. That Commission is playing a courageous and selfless part in difficult