

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, the present conflict between Israel and Egypt breaks the heart of the whole world. But this conflict is far from being recent, it is the consequence of actions which have been taking place for several years. I listened to the members of the Progressive Conservative, New Democratic and Liberal parties. Some of them say: We must make a decision. The Progressive Conservatives today opened the debate which is now going on, by saying that we should take a stand.

● (2220)

And having listened to them, I found out that none of them is taking a stand except the member for York South who said that Israel has a right to exist. I also believe that Israel has a right to exist. This is a fact.

But, Mr. Speaker, how can we put an end to the conflict over there? Even if we discussed the matter here for two days, what could we do to solve the problem, except to suggest to the Great Powers to convince Israel and the Arab nations to sit around a table where they could discuss their problems and reach an agreement.

This is what is called diplomacy. Diplomacy has been going on in the Middle East for quite a while. The failure of diplomacy in the Middle East did not start in 1940. In 1916, almost 60 years ago, following the dismemberment of the Ottoman empire after the First World War, Great Britain and France agreed to place Palestine under British mandate.

Everybody agrees on this. One year later, in 1917, Great Britain published the Balfour Declaration advocating the creation of a Jewish national home state in Palestine. In 1919, two years later, an American Commission concluded that the Balfour Declaration could not be enforced without the use of military force against the non-Jewish populations. In 1922, the League of Nations placed the Palestine territory under British mandate. This territory is divided between Palestine and Transjordan. While the Allies of Great Britain supported the Balfour Declaration, the Arab states responded time and again with explosions of violence.

This took place in 1922, that is, 51 years ago. In 1937, the Arab-Jewish conflict convinced Great Britain that the mandate was inapplicable. Palestine had to be divided according to the British. When Great Britain went back on her decision concerning the Balfour Declaration, Zionists reacted with violence.

In 1947, British diplomats recognize their failure and leave it to the United Nations Organization to solve the crisis. Great Britain gives up its mandate in 1948. Israel proclaims its independence with the support of the United States and U.S.S.R. Both powers support the independence of Israel.

The war breaks out in the Middle East and ends in the victory of Israel and the armistice of 1948. In 1956, France and Great Britain join Israel in attacking Egypt. This was not too long ago. The U.S.S.R. and the United States intervene to stop the war, a UN force is established for the maintenance of peace. Then, peace was maintained.

### Arab-Israeli War

In 1967, the Six Day War broke out; Egypt expelled the UN Force, the American and Russian organisation, and closed down the straits of Tiran. During a blitz war, the Israelis get, thanks to their offensive the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan heights as well as the lands on the left side of the Jordan river.

In 1970 the UN representative, Mr. Gunnar Jarring, organized through his mediation the talks between Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Israel took exception and withdraw from the talks. The latest developments date back to 1971. Egypt signed a treaty of friendship for 15 years with Soviet Russia, after, of course, the U.S.S.R. had endorsed the creation of the state of Israel. In 1972, Egypt sent the Soviet advisors back home. In 1973, the precarious peace was shaken up by commando raids and guerrilla attacks. And now, it is war.

Mr. Speaker, if we consider that background we see that there are two sides there that have practically no say in that matter: the Israelis and the Arabs. At a certain point France and England decide for those two countries. At another point it is the United States, the U.S.S.R. and Israel, and the Arabs have nothing to say. And things go back and forth. And here we saw how members rise and say that a decision must be reached. Yesterday, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) said that the government must take a stand. Earlier I heard the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) make a cautious speech, saying that no government can take a stand. Furthermore, he said it in English so he would not be understood but I did anyway.

Mr. Speaker, it is the same thing with the Liberals. The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) is honest about it. One thing is sure, those who are going to solve the problem out there are not Canadians, Russians or Americans, but Jews and Arabs. It is a matter of offering our mediation to allow them to meet and talk like men. Let the fighting stop. I believe there is enough room in the world for understanding. There never was any formal agreement in that area. If we take position in favour of the Arabs the Jews will hold it against us. If we take position for the Jews, the Arabs will be offended. And when we meet them, they say it is up to them to solve their problems. I do recognize that it is up to them to solve their problems. The financial schemers behind the conflicts who are seeking oil ought to be hunted out. There are some in the United States and some in the Soviet Union. Also there are the arms dealers. Right now, while there is a war going on, France—Long live free France!—as well as England, are selling weapons to the Arabs and to the Jews. That is a paying proposition, for they sell twice as many weapons. So, they make profits. Not one word is heard from either France or England.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** So that they may have them destroyed and order some more.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Sure enough, more are being destroyed. At least if they were interested in manufacturing tractors to help those people produce wheat in their country. But a tractor would last ten years and this is not good for business. Whereas howitzers may be destroyed immediately. Another one is sold the next day.