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CANADA'S POSITION IN WORLD CRISIS

Statements by Prime Minister St. Laurent and by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, last week outlined Canada's position in the international crisis occasioned by the tumultuous events in the Middle East and the situation in Hungary.

In a radio and television address November 4, Prime Minister St. Laurent made the following summation of Canada's views on the two grave world problems and reviewed actions taken in the United Nations by Canada up to that time:

I think it my duty to speak to you tonight about the very grave events of the last two weeks. I should like first to talk about the Middle East crisis. I would like to explain to you the Government's recent actions in the context of our general policy in the Middle East. For the last few years peace has been precarious in this area, especially around the borders of Israel, whose creation as a state was recommended by the United Nations General Assembly with Canada's support in November 1947.

While the tensions arising out of the situation in the Middle East have continued, Canada has steadily encouraged efforts to secure a fair settlement based on the principle that Israel should live and prosper--but not the principle that it should expand at the expense of its Arab neighbours.

A recent communist intervention in the Middle East has contributed directly to the present crisis. By supplying offensive weapons

in large quantities to Egypt the Communist world threatened to upset the balance of power between Israel and its Arab neighbours. In order to help redress this potential imbalance Canada agreed a few weeks ago to authorize the export of 24 F-86 jet fighter planes to Israel over a six-month period. We realized however that a permanent settlement between Israel and its neighbours arranged by the United Nations was the only way in which peace could be preserved in the long run.

Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal Company increased the dangers inherent in the Middle East situation. The Egyptian action introduced a threat to the trade on which the economic life of many countries depends. It placed the control of shipping in the Canal in the hands of a government which for some years has been denying access to the Canal for Israeli ships in defiance of a Security Council resolution.

In the crisis which resulted from the nationalization of the Canal Company the Canadian Government has followed a definite and consistent policy in public statements and in private discussions with the nations concerned. We have advocated that a settlement of the issues relating to the Canal which directly affect so many countries should be achieved under the auspices of the United Nations and there should be no resort to force. The Canadian Government welcomed the 18-power proposals agreed to at the London Conference in August as a sound basis for negotiating a

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