

councils of the world. To that view, of course, we must give great weight and we shall. But there are other considerations as well which must weigh in determining Canada's policy and course of action. I see no reason strong enough to justify changing our policy on this matter at this time.

Our discussions in regard to the Middle East naturally centered on the danger of conflict between the Arab states and Israel. On the whole I was somewhat reassured by what I heard. We all recognize that the situation there is dangerous, but the danger has become a little less acute as a result of Mr. Hammarskjold's mediation. I feel that every effort should be made now through the Security Council of the United Nations to secure the collaboration of the Soviet Union in helping to find a peaceful settlement of this Palestine issue. I think they realise the danger there would be to them as well as to the rest of the world from war breaking out in that area.

Our discussions of economic affairs were in the nature of interim reports and analyses of the situation in the sterling area members of the Commonwealth. They were naturally of very considerable interest to us, for the situation of all these countries, particularly of Britain, affects our trade. I gave a brief résumé of some aspects of our situation likely to be of interest to others. The United Kingdom Government is persevering in its efforts to find solutions to its own economic problems that would permit an increasing freedom of trade between us and the continued elimination of discrimination against imports from the dollar area. We recognized and valued the progress made already in this direction and naturally we expressed the wish to see this progress continue. We were assured that the United Kingdom intended to persevere with this policy and I think the events and public statements in the United Kingdom in recent weeks make this determination quite evident. I am convinced that our policy should continue to be to seek the removal of the remaining restrictions on the imports of Canadian goods into the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the sterling area and to encourage the development of sound competitive export trade from the United Kingdom to Canada.

This trade remains under the detailed scrutiny of our continuing joint committee of senior officers which was established for that purpose and which met in London earlier in June.

There was no discussion at this conference about the time or place of our next meeting. I have been asked whether a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers might be held in Canada and to this I would reply that we should be glad and honoured to have a future meeting here but the time and place of any particular meeting must be determined primarily by the convenience of the busy men who are required to attend. London has proved to be a convenient site but this does not mean that the conference should not be held in other Commonwealth capitals when that is the general desire.

I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to express again the gratitude of all the Canadians attending this conference for the hospitality and friendliness with which we were received by Her Majesty the Queen and by all those in the United Kingdom who joined in making the conference a success.