

Mr. Pearson:

I don't know whether I can answer that question. There are colonial territories which are of great strategic importance to the North Atlantic Organization but, if we hold those colonial territories against the wishes of their inhabitants, are we going to be strong or weaker in the long run?

Cyprus

Press:

Mr. Pearson, I would like to interject something here about the explosive effects of the dispute between Britain and Greece about Cyprus. It seems to me that this is an issue that may well cause a breach in the NATO ranks in a very vulnerable area.

Mr. Pearson:

Why don't you chaps ask me something about Canadian policy, however

Press:

You are interested in NATO.

Mr. Pearson:

That is quite true and I think as a member of NATO, we and all other members must deplore the Cyprus dispute between two NATO members. It is very difficult to maintain solidarity inside NATO when you have that kind of bitter dispute. We are going to have a NATO council meeting in about a month and maybe the NATO council, in certain circumstances, will be able to help solve this dispute.

Press:

Which do you regard as more serious for the Western Alliance? The danger of an immediate war between the Arab states and Israel or the disruptive effect of this quarrel among Greece, Turkey and Britain?

Mr. Pearson:

I regard them both as serious problems. I think, if you force me to choose between the two in priority of seriousness, from the point of view of an