



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58/30 THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Statement by Mr. Sidney E. Smith,
Secretary of State for External
Affairs, in the House of Commons,
July 25, 1958.

The first item, of course, with which the House will expect me to deal is the grave and vital situation in the Middle East. I am sure there is no need for me to rehearse in detail the developments in that area during the past two weeks, because members are no doubt familiar with those developments; but with respect to Canada, and indeed the whole world, our attention is directed to New York, and I propose at the beginning of my remarks to give to the House a full account of the latest happenings here.

LEBANON

Before doing so, however, I should make reference to the developments in Lebanon leading up to this particular crisis, and give to the House some information with respect to the evolution of that crisis. Members will recall that on May 27, 1958, Lebanon presented charges to the Security Council of the United Nations simultaneously with those to the Arab League. The charge of Lebanon was that the United Arab Republic had intervened in its internal affairs. The Arab League had nothing to offer in the way of a solution of the issues involved in this charge and subsequently the Security Council, after discussion of the charges, decided to act in this particular regard.

May I remind the House, however, that there had never been any overt aggression from Syria into Lebanon. It had to do with indirect aggression. This was a new type of aggression with which the Security Council had to deal. It is difficult to define what is indirect aggression, yet the Security Council addressed itself to this question.