

Nearly ten years ago, I said that Canadians had accepted the necessity of making decisions on major questions affecting the peace and security of the world, that many questions would arise from situations having their origins far from our shores and that, at first glance, these might not appear to affect directly the interests of the Canadian people. I went on to say that in so far as such geographically distant events were factors in world security, they were of first importance to the future of our country.

The Middle East

I do not believe that there is a single thinking citizen of Canada who would say that the situation in the Middle East today is not one which has serious implications for the peace of the world and thus for our own security.

It is my view that, had fighting between Israel and Egypt on the one hand and the military intervention of the United Kingdom and France on the other continued for a prolonged period of time, there would have been a very grave danger of the conflict spreading and of an almost irreparable breach being created between the nations of Asia and Africa and those of much of the western world in their relations with one another and in the United Nations. In addition, a great strain would have been placed on the continued existence of the Commonwealth as we know it today. Further, it is conceivable that the practical cohesion of our Western Alliance would have been most seriously affected.

For Canada, such a dread three-sided eventuality would have presented a very grave situation; for the world, in our eyes, it would have been a tragedy; for the Soviet Union it would have provided a situation with endless possibilities to exploit in the furtherance of its unrenounced aim to make the world over in its own image.

Well, you know what we did. In the sphere of direct action, we took steps to halt for an indefinite period all shipments of arms and material to the Middle East. We also warned all Canadians in the area of the desirability of leaving forthwith and, with the generous co-operation of our American friends, we made available to those in need of it, safe means of transportation away from the troubled zone.

At the United Nations we voted for consideration of the Israeli attack at the Special Session of the General Assembly; we initiated the resolution to put effective action behind the United Nations' call for a cease fire, by all the parties in the