

The Address—Mr. Knowles

I am sure we are safe in asking ourselves what the actions of the United States would have been had they been faced in Panama with a situation similar to that with which the British were faced in Suez. I believe that is not an excuse for United States taking the attitude which it has taken. If the United States is going to assume the importance of the No. 1 nation, both militarily and financially, in the world, she has to have an outlook that embraces the world and not just the Panama canal. She has to see the Suez as well.

It is this problem with which we are faced, and the job that faces us now is to try to get a permanent solution of the Arab-Israel problem. This has to be done. I have an editorial here from the Vancouver *Sun* of November 20 and the heading is, "Curb Nasser Now". I think we are all agreed that so long as Nasser is allowed to dictate policies, even telling the members who are contributing to the police force what sort of technicians, what sort of troops and even what shall be the names of their regiments, we will not get very far in settling these questions.

Then, following the settlement of this great question, the one problem which concerns me greatly is the necessity for rebuilding and straightening out the twisted framework of the commonwealth of nations. I should like to read a very few sentences from an editorial in the Vancouver *Sun* of November 14, 1956:

Canadians ought to follow the example of those Britons who appear to be doing some quiet thinking about the future of the commonwealth as a result of the Anglo-French military action in Egypt.

Then a little farther down it says:

But no matter what time tells in this regard we have to worry about whether the commonwealth will ever be the same.

It is that, Mr. Speaker, which is causing a lot of concern to good Canadian citizens. This is advice that the government must heed. I must admit that there is a place in this world for the United Nations. We need the United Nations, and it could be a wonderful instrument for the preservation of peace and sanity in the world. But let us not forget the wonderful power for peace and good will the commonwealth has been, and let us bend every effort to repair the breaches that exist today.

I have drawn attention to the changes that have taken place in the composition of the British Empire. These changes have come about by evolution and not by revolution. We were, within the memory of many in this chamber, a colony of Great Britain, although we were not a colony that had to do the

bidding of Great Britain. At that time one of the greatest Canadians, I believe, used a few well chosen words to express our position in that empire. I believe you all remember them. They were, "Daughter am I in my mother's house but mistress in my own". Those words were true while we were a part of that great British Empire. Today, through evolution, we have become a part of the great British commonwealth of nations. We are no longer a daughter in our mother's house but rather, Mr. Speaker, we could say, "Sister am I in my sister's house, but mistress in my own".

Let us foster such a spirit and such a feeling, so this great commonwealth can continue to be an association of nations working together in harmony and peace and being the great bulwark of freedom they have been in the past. I say to this government that in the achievement of this spirit lies the greatest problem we have to face at the present time.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this group I wish at the outset to express our wholehearted approval of the announcement made at eight o'clock this evening by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration concerning further steps the government of Canada is prepared to take to assist Hungarian refugees. We believe that in taking these further steps the government is simply giving expression to what is in the hearts of the Canadian people. I think this is a time to congratulate the Canadian people on the ways in which they have expressed their desire that everything possible be done to assist these refugees; indeed, I think the press of Canada is to be congratulated on the campaign it has carried on during the past few weeks urging the Canadian government to open its heart so far as the Hungarian refugees are concerned.

In relation to the situation in the Middle East which has brought us to this special session of parliament, Mr. Speaker, it seems to us in this group that there are two purposes to which this House of Commons should address itself. In the first place we feel that we, the representatives of the Canadian people, should be indicating very clearly good, solid and strong Canadian support for the efforts which our Canadian representatives at the United Nations have made to establish the rule of law and achieve peace in the Middle East.

The second purpose to which we feel this House of Commons should address itself is that of making it clear to the government of this country that there is still a great deal more to be done, and if we feel that there is much more to be done, particularly at