

protection for this continent are in their view fundamental to the preservation of peace and the security of Canada.

Security, however, cannot rest on arms alone. The Government, therefore, is continuing its constant efforts, through diplomacy and negotiation and through the United Nations and other international agencies, to bring about better understanding between nations.

A meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers will be held in London in June to consider matters of mutual interest. My Prime Minister has accepted the invitation to attend.

Meanwhile my Ministers are looking forward to the visit to Ottawa in February of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom.

The annual meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan agreed that this constructive work should be continued for a further period and you will be asked to authorize Canada's continued participation in the Plan, as well as in the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme . . .

The Middle East

The following statement was made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, on January 24, 1956.

Export of Military Equipment to the Middle East

I propose this morning to discuss first the question of the export of military equipment to the Middle East and secondly—and this I hope will put the first question in perspective—the political situation in that part of the world, with particular reference to the relations between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

As to the first question, I wish to outline the principles which governed the policy of the Government in this matter and then give particulars regarding the application of those principles and that policy, both as to the procedures that are followed and the results in terms of shipments over the last two years.

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Now, what are the principles, the rules governing the shipment of military equipment from this country? These principles are the result of careful consideration and are, I think, sound and reasonable. The decisions based on them are made only after studying the relevant factors in every case submitted to us. The system of controls and checks through which policies and decisions are carried out is as effective as that of any other free country.

The basis of our control system is the Export and Import Permits Act of 1954, which superseded the Export and Import Permits Act of 1947. Incidentally, both these acts were discussed in the House and the earlier one was referred to a committee, and in all the discussion of these two acts no reference was made at that time by the hon. members opposite to the question of arms shipment. Under the act of 1954 it is illegal to export or attempt to export to any destination affected any item included in an export control list except under an export permit issued by or under the authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.