

External Affairs

leaders claim are vital to their very survival. I have already dealt with that, so I do not intend to say any more about it.

As we face the necessity of finding some solution to the confused and dangerous situation in that part of the world, I think as a nation we must resolve to act with high morality and strict adherence to principle in all relations and with all nations, whether it be the Arabs or the Jews. The western world has not always done this. There has been too much intrigue and expediency. Nations have been put into pawn to other nations, and it is not difficult to understand why there are millions of people throughout the world who distrust the west and fear and hate us. There is great bitterness. I have seen that, and I have felt it in mingling with many of these people.

If we as a nation act in strict accordance with moral principles in anything we do from here on, we probably will be able to give leadership in this field. Leadership is the crying need of the free world; moral leadership. I hope we can, by our actions, influence other western nations to adopt similar attitudes. If other nations follow this lead it should not take too many years to break down the fear, the suspicion, and the bitterness that have grown up in the past.

This morning the minister spoke of impatience amongst the Middle Eastern nations; impatience with the very slow progress that is being made toward the economic betterment of their people since they achieved political independence. This is where the abundantly blessed western nations must come in to help these people improve their chances of widely spread economic security and well-being.

I agree quite fully with the concluding words of the Leader of the Opposition, when he spoke of the necessity of demanding in the United Nations that conditions be laid down so there would be no doubt about the right of free passage of ships of all nations through the Suez and the gulf of Aqaba. I agree with that, and I think everybody agrees with it who has thought about the situation at all. The Leader of the Opposition also said the United Nations must assume direct responsibility in the Gaza area to preserve that part from aggressive action on the part of Egypt. Again I thoroughly agree.

Mr. Pearson: May I ask my hon. friend a question? How would he enforce the demand that these things be done through the United Nations assembly?

Mr. Low: That is a right good question. I was just coming to that, Mr. Speaker. I was saying that I agreed that those things

[Mr. Low.]

are the ideal and we should be making strong representations, but the big problem is how to get those things done without interfering with the sovereignty of other nations or resorting to force. This is what I wanted to draw to the attention of my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition. It is one thing to say let us go out boldly demanding these things, but it is another thing to know how to do it without getting ourselves into armed conflict, the very thing we want to avoid.

This was exactly the conclusion I wanted to reach. I cannot make any suggestion at this moment other than what is already being done, and that was the reason I could not find it possible to be very critical of what the minister said this morning. I believe that Canada, and her representatives at the United Nations, have been doing pretty well in this regard. Certainly if we have not achieved all we had hoped to achieve through the United Nations it has not been their fault. It is a difficult situation, and I stand with the minister and the government in the declaration that we do not want the United Nations, under any circumstances, to be guilty of overriding the sovereignty of any nation in which the forces of the United Nations happen to be placed. I think that is important. We will continue to support him in that regard, and we will support him and the government in every effort they make to bring about a peaceful solution of the problem in the Middle East without resort to force.

Of course sometimes this demands some boldness of action. It demands also attention to a number of other things besides those that were mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. I think we have to do what the hon. member for Winnipeg North said in speaking about a solution of the outstanding problems between the countries in the Middle East. They are not just those two we have mentioned thus far, but include water-power development in these countries, and the refugee problem upon which I shall not expand at all. But we do have a moral responsibility to try to mobilize the moral powers of the world in every way we possibly can.

I think that the strongest force in the world today is a moral force; that is the thing we want to bring to bear upon this whole problem. I think we must, to that end, fortify as far as possible the friendship amongst the western powers, Britain, France, the United States and the others who are free nations and who have something to contribute in a responsible fashion. It seems to me that united action by these nations on