

In putting forward this suggestion I realize that the United Nations should proceed cautiously, but if the experiment were successful it might be used as a precedent for stabilizing other countries in the Middle East, torn not only by fierce internal antagonisms but by hostile external rivalries and tensions. The possibility of insulation through the United Nations raises novel problems and vast difficulties, but so acute have the problems of this region become that we must cast our minds about to examine every possible line of approach which might offer the prospect of advance.

I make another reference to the stability not only of Lebanon but also of the Middle East. Much of their trouble can be traced to the economic difficulties in which they find themselves, and I would hope it would be possible to give some assurance of economic stability not only to Lebanon but to the whole Middle East that would warrant and promote political stability. In this particular task I can foresee for the United Nations and for other organizations a really valuable role.

MEETING AT THE TOP

As the Prime Minister said the other day in the House, this is not the time for stagnant thinking, and if there is anything in this new United Nations approach, the West could seize the opportunity at the summit meeting which now appears certain to be held in New York and endeavour to make a small beginning, at any rate, in the country of Lebanon.

That was one reason that prompted the Canadian Government to welcome the Soviet proposal of last Saturday, a proposal that contained offensive and provocative language giving unnecessary offence to the addressees. Indeed, I had occasion to point out to Mr. Sobolev when I was in New York that it was unnecessarily truculent and offensive. But I know I can speak for the Prime Minister when I say that in sending messages to President Eisenhower, Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Nehru, expressing hope that there would not be a negative attitude to Mr. Khrushchev's proposal, we had in mind that some constructive measure such as the one I have been indicating might be looked at and adopted not only for Lebanon but for the Middle East.

Then with reference to the message that was received by France, the United Kingdom and the United States from Mr. Khrushchev, we had in mind that a meeting at the top could result in a diminution of international tension. On Sunday we discussed also the terrible possibility, not the probability but the terrible possibility, of the nations of the world sliding into a global nuclear war. The