

*Arab-Israeli War*

● (2050)

As recently as February, 1971, *Al Ahram*, the prestigious government-controlled newspaper of Egypt, printed the following words:

—there are only two specific Arab goals at present, elimination of the consequences of the 1967 aggression through Israel's withdrawal from all the lands so occupied and—

Mark this, Mr. Speaker.

—elimination of the consequences of the 1948 aggression through the eradication of Israel.

The latter part, just a couple of years ago, was set out as the second goal of the Egyptians. Therefore I say, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot blame Israel for being somewhat sceptical about the professing of limited objectives. In any event, it is very difficult to limit objectives when war has been unleashed, as history has shown.

I suggest it is clear that there can be no lasting peace in the area without the acceptance of negotiations and the conclusion of an agreed peace. These negotiations must concern, among other things, the plight of the Palestinian refugees. Resolution 242 of the United Nations Security Council to which I have referred affirms the necessity for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem. No one will suggest that this is an easy objective. It will demand constructive action on the part of the Arab states and of Israel, and indeed a contribution by the world community. Canada, as part of the world community, will have her share to contribute.

I think it is clear, too, that the problem of the refugees cannot be solved without the creation of peace in the area. As long as there is no acceptance of peace and no genuine negotiation, the refugees will very likely become a pawn in the bitter game of hatred and mistrust. I do not mean, by speaking of the problem of the refugees and of the necessity of its solution, to blame the existence of the problem on the State of Israel. Propaganda has often asserted that the refugees were thrust out or thrown out of their homes and farms. After the United Nations, in 1947, called for partition and the creation of two states in Palestine, the Arab states refused to accept the decision and attacked the State of Israel almost as it was born. They encouraged the flight of Arabs from their homes and farms, and no doubt encouraged the expectation that they would return with the victorious Arab forces.

Many Arabs who refused to flee and remained in Israel have lived in peace and prosperity in that country. Indeed, the Arabs have done little to alleviate the fate of the refugees and have appeared to maintain the status quo as a festering sore and a propaganda device in the struggle against Israel. However that may be, the rights and welfare of the homeless Palestinians is a major and essential item for the negotiation which must follow.

The government of Israel has from time to time asserted its willingness to contribute to the settlement of the refugee problem and, indeed, it is clearly in the interests of Israel that this problem be solved. Indeed, it is clearly to the interests of Israel, a nation infinitely smaller in numbers and ultimate resources than the Arab countries that surround it, that there be a lasting peace. It is hard to believe, therefore, that in negotiations the government of Israel, be they designated as hawks or doves, would not be

[Mr. Brewin.]

willing to make substantial concessions so long as its ultimate security is not jeopardized and its existence and survival guaranteed.

Far above and beyond the present conflict there looms the threat of escalation. The two super powers have armed and supported the different protagonists for some time. Indeed, since the outbreak of the present conflict the U.S.S.R. seems to be fanning the flames. In so doing they are destroying the proposals of détente which they have claimed to support. Both the super powers have replenished or promised to replenish the arsenals of their clients which have been depleted through combat losses. In this way lies world disaster. The weapons handed out are modern, destructive, sophisticated and murderous in their power.

When the Security Council discussed resolution 242 there was consideration of a provision originally contained in the United States draft. That was a provision to halt the arms race in the Middle-East. The reason for its elimination is not clear. One's initial impression might be that it was cut out because Soviet large-scale support of supplies and military equipment to the Arab countries was insisted upon by the U.S.S.R. However, it is a fact of history that the Soviet draft resolution, presented at the final stage of the Security Council debate on resolution 242, included a similar call to halt the arms race, couched in almost identical terms to those used in the United States text.

If both the super powers at that time saw the necessity of containing their dangerous race to arm their friends in this explosive area, surely the time has now come when this resolution should again be considered. The Security Council should revive the proposal for an arms ban and, what is more, act upon it promptly. If they fail to do so, the continuance of the conflict threatens the peace of the whole world.

Canadians, Mr. Speaker, and every man of good will throughout the world, will earnestly hope for an early end to hostilities, and this time not just a ceasefire but a long and lasting peace. Canadians will also, as good members of the world community, be ready to assist in the reconstruction of the societies damaged by the conflict.

I can think of no better way to end my remarks, in which I have not tried to match the depth of my feelings with the length of my speech, than to quote Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut of Holy Blossom Temple, as quoted in an article in the *Globe and Mail* of Tuesday, October 9, in the following words:

Perchance we dare to hope, when the fire ceases, the fourth war will at last lead to negotiation and then to peace so that refugees may find a home and Arab and Jew, cousins by descent, may join in building the world of tomorrow.

Perhaps the rabbi was, in his reference to cousins, thinking of the African concept of the extended family. May the peoples of the Middle East find a way to build the world of tomorrow in the spirit of the extended family.

● (2100)

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, for the second time since I have been elected to this House, the war in the Middle East is the subject of an emergency