

Mr. KNOWLES: But in the light of present Canadian policy, the only way we could become involved in Indo-China would be in response to a United Nations decision?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: In present conditions and circumstances that is the only way by which we could be formally involved in the Indo-Chinese war.

Mr. KNOWLES: Speaking of Mr. Dulles, I believe a week ago tomorrow you were questioned in the House about his second last speech. You must have quite a job keeping up with his speeches.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Yes, and probably he has quite a job keeping up with mine.

Mr. KNOWLES: You mean keeping up with your speeches explaining his. I refer to his unity of action speech, and when questioned about it in the House you said you preferred not to comment further until you had obtained clarification or something about it. Have you obtained anything further on that subject and if so, what have you to say in the light of it?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: We have had some exchange of views with Washington over that statement and what was meant by "united action"; but nothing that would, I think, warrant me at this moment making another statement. I would be glad to say something when we have had the meaning cleared up but I hope I can be excused from making any further comment on what he meant by "united action" at this time.

Mr. KNOWLES: I wonder if you would care to comment on the relationship between your respect for Sir Winston Churchill's judgment that there should not now, at this time, be a meeting of the heads of the three governments on the question of atomic energy compared with your statement that these three governments are negotiating or discussing that question. I presume it must be at some lower level. Have I made my question quite clear?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. KNOWLES: Can you relate those two things which seem a bit contradictory?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I do not really think they are contradictory because one of the reasons for a meeting on such a high level was to discuss atomic energy; and at this time representatives of those same three governments are now considering how to start a discussion in New York on the question of atomic energy under the United Nations resolution passed last December for that purpose. I think we all hope that within a very short time this discussion will begin and that it will be conducted in the initial stages, at least, privately. I think there is a greater channel of progress in this way than having great public discussions at higher political levels at the present time.

Mr. KNOWLES: I have one other question: would you be in a position to say what kind of information on atomic weapons or hydrogen weapons and so on you are getting from the qualified scientific official to whom you referred last week. You said that you had one at Washington, dealing with these matters. Is the information that you get from this person purely scientific or are there diplomatic or political aspects to it as well?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: The information is scientific, but I hope I will not be misunderstood when I say that I really do not feel that I can make public that information at this time. A great deal of it has already been made public by General Strauss and other United States officials; and that information which has been made public emphasizes the horrible power of this new weapon. The information we have got merely underlines this.

Mr. KNOWLES: You have been getting some information which may be beyond what we and the public generally are getting in the press.