



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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## THE MIDDLE EAST

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Mr. L. B. Pearson, in the House of Commons 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The basis of our control system is the Export and Import Permits Act of 1954, which superseded the Export and Import Permits Act of 1947.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