

Not only, Mr. Speaker, in my view, must the borders be made secure between Israel and her neighbours; so must freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal and in the Gulf of Aqaba. As the Canal will soon be open to traffic again it is, I think, very important indeed to press on with discussions which have already begun at the United Nations so that the control of the operation, maintenance and development of the Canal will be in accordance with the six principles agreed on at the Security Council last September—I think it was last September. Events since that time, far from weakening the validity of these principles, have strengthened that validity and I think it is now more important than ever that the operation of this essential international waterway be—and I quote from one of these principles—"insulated from the politics of any one nation" and that the United Nations recognize and confirm that fact.

This is a problem which is right on top of us at the United Nations Assembly now, and it must be solved satisfactorily or there will be further trouble in that area. It is obvious of course—I think it is obvious, though I wish it were not—that the Soviet Union will do its best to prevent such an agreed solution on terms satisfactory both to the users of the Canal and to Egypt. Moscow has already shown that its policy is to trouble these waters and to fish in them.

Looking further ahead, the experience of the United Nations in respect of the Suez crisis, especially the necessity for hasty improvisation, underlines, I think, the desirability and the need of some international police force on a more permanent basis. We have recognized this need in the past. We have expressed that recognition at the United Nations and elsewhere as recently as in the General Assembly before the recess and we have done all we could to translate that necessity into reality, but for one reason or another it has never been possible for the United Nations, except in the special and limited cases of Korea and the Middle East, to have armed forces at its disposal; the reason for that I will not go into at this time.

Mr. Fulton: Is it the view of the Canadian Government that the United Nations Emergency Force should be assigned a stabilizing role in connection with the Suez Canal?

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are possibilities for that if such a role is needed, but if there is agreement between the users of the Canal and the Government of Egypt which would in its turn provide for a satisfactory means of resolving the dispute over the use of the Canal it might not be necessary for any outside United Nations Force to be present on the Canal while the agreement is in effect. I think the best thing to do is to wait and see how these discussions work out.