

External Affairs

Mr. Green: Then the minister disagrees with Mr. Dulles who a few days ago accused them of dragging their feet.

Mr. Pearson: I am giving you General Wheeler's report. He is the officer in charge of operations.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister is the only one in the world who believes that Nasser has not delayed the clearing of the canal; and if he is that naive I am sure I cannot convince him that he is wrong. No stand has been taken by the Canadian government, as expressed to the Egyptian government, that the canal must be free to all shipping of the world. For some reason or another the government is extremely reluctant to make its position known to Nasser. It must be afraid of offending this dictator. We believe that Canada should be perfectly frank and straightforward in telling Mr. Nasser, just as in telling other people, exactly what she believes.

As to the Gaza strip, that matter has been discussed at length today and I have no intention of repeating what has already been said. It has been used as a base for attacks on Israel. I do not think that statement can be questioned—and, I may say, attacks of the most vicious kind. Then the Israelis struck and drove the Egyptians out. In the last few days the Israelis have withdrawn, and they have done so on certain assumptions which were certainly given them by the United States if not by the United Nations. I believe this deal was made outside the United Nations, between Israel and the United States. One of those assumptions was that the United Nations emergency force would administer the Gaza strip.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs today also skated around that matter. He had a most amazing explanation of it. He said the United Nations agency was to carry out certain work in Gaza, and then he said "not for Gaza but in Gaza", thus trying to explain that it was never really meant that the United Nations was to take over the full administration of the Gaza strip pending a peace settlement.

That is the sort of quibbling which has been going on throughout this whole picture, and the sort of attitude that is so unfair to the Canadian people. Certainly the Israelis understood that the United Nations emergency force or some other United Nations agency—I believe the minister himself suggested a United Nations commissioner—would be administering the Gaza strip. The United Nations emergency force went into the Gaza strip in good faith. Our own General Burns, in command of that force, led it into the Gaza

strip in good faith and with great hopes that the result would be a final settlement of this difficulty.

Right from the start Nasser has inspired agitation in that strip. The minister had nothing to say about that matter today. He did not admit that such was the case. But we have been reading in the press day after day of these large mobs with their signs which were brought in from Egypt. They were freshly painted signs; there was nothing spontaneous about them at all. Right from the start that action was taken by Egypt. Now, within the last 24 hours, Egypt has sent in a military governor.

What has the United Nations done? On March 9 press dispatches stated that the secretary general said the emergency force has assumed responsibility for civil affairs in the Gaza strip. That was on March 9. But on March 13 we find Dr. Bunche reported as having been conferring with Nasser in Egypt. This is the dispatch:

Bunche talked for one and a half hours with Nasser, then told reporters the United Nations emergency force would co-operate fully with the Egyptian administration in the Gaza strip.

Bunche said United Nations emergency forces would turn over the Gaza administration to Egypt in the same way it returned control of Port Said to Egypt after the Anglo-French invasion.

"However, it is up to Egyptian authorities to announce when the take over will take place," he said.

The United States, which had these dealings direct with Israel, took this position yesterday. I have last night's *Citizen* and the heading is, "It is up to Dag, Eisenhower View". This is a dispatch from Washington:

President Eisenhower's reaction to the latest trouble in the Gaza strip is to "leave it to George"—George in this case being U.N. secretary Dag Hammarskjöld.

Then this dispatch contains this little interesting paragraph:

Wednesday night Israeli ambassador Abba Eban conferred with U.S. officials, reportedly to urge the United States to keep Egyptian administrative units out of Gaza. But at his press conference the president, asked if he wouldn't like to see Egypt delay moving in its new governor and civil administration, would take no stand, merely a wait and see attitude.

That looks very much as if the United States is just washing its hands of this situation, at least for the time being. In my opinion Israel has been betrayed. This morning the minister said he hopes the United States will use its influence in Cairo. If the United States is not going to go any further than President Eisenhower went yesterday there is not very much chance of the influence of that great nation being used in Cairo to settle this problem.

Then there is the question of the position of the United Nations emergency force.