

And that is that increasingly the United Nations, under the wise influence and unobtrusive guidance of Mr. Hammarskjold, is proving its value as the central market-place of world diplomacy. You and I can remember all too vividly the days when, because of the crippling chill of the Cold War, conversations between groups of nations were virtually at a standstill. We can all be deeply grateful that those days are gone, and while I am perfectly well aware that the change is attributable to many factors beyond the purview of the United Nations, yet I am convinced that it is in the United Nations that the benefits of the change can best be exploited. As I have already indicated, it is important to encourage the new nations of Asia and Africa to participate with a full sense of their growing opportunity and responsibility in the United Nations' search for peaceful settlements. There are already signs that the deliberations of the United Nations are being enriched by a flow of new ideas and fresh viewpoints from this source.

There are two very significant and powerful trends among the peoples of these countries of Asia and Africa -- a surge of newly-awakened nationalism, and a quest for a position of their own between the two ideological camps into which the world is divided. A recent, and, I think, very important manifestation of these two trends -- nationalism and the desire for non-alignment, or, as they call it in the Middle East, "positive neutrality" -- is the sudden union of Egypt and Syria, which may be a step towards that wider Arab unity which has long been the goal of Arab nationalists. We have no way as yet of judging how the new union will develop, or how far it may ultimately extend; but the tide of history is running fast in all these countries, and it would be unwise, I think, to adopt hasty attitudes with respect to a development which may in fact represent the pattern of the future. Canada will be watching with interest the evolution of the new union and we pray that the forces which have brought it into being will be channelled along constructive lines. Meanwhile, we must work to ensure that the general tranquillity of the area of the Middle East is preserved.

Our continued participation in the United Nations Emergency Force, on the borders of Egypt and Israel, and our support for the humanitarian work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees -- recently supplemented by a large gift of flour from Canada -- are examples of our efforts under the aegis of the U.N. to preserve the peace in this turbulent area. It will interest you to know that a few days ago I had a letter from Mr. Labouisse, the Director of UNRWA. Mr. Labouisse said, in part: "The decision of the Canadian Government to make a special supplementary contribution to UNRWA of 20,000 tons of flour, valued at \$1,500,000, has brought great joy to all of us concerned with the problem of the Palestine refugees. This very generous additional contribution will go a long way toward enabling us to continue our basic services for the refugees."