

Supply—External Affairs

the refugees from both of the previous military encounters in 1948 and in 1956. These people will require food and other aid in massive quantities immediately if the discontent is not to continue festering. I think that Canada should be prepared to move immediately and provide substantially more aid over and above what we are doing now. If this matter is not attended to at once, I think it would be foolish indeed to hope that peace will be maintained for long.

Before we can expect any pull-back to permanent positions, I believe a commission must be set up to establish the lines and to consider the other conditions of a settlement. We believe that there will be some difficulties in conducting the negotiations, particularly with regard to the area around Jerusalem. We know now that the old walled city of Jerusalem was previously in the hands of Jordan. The Israeli army have occupied that area. According to the press reports we have received, the Israeli government, or at least some spokesman of the government, has said that Israel will never again leave the old walled city of Jerusalem. That is an indication that the state of Israel is not willing to move back to the borders that were in effect prior to the recent hostilities, and that there are probably other areas, such as Sharm el Sheikh, from which Israel will be reluctant to move back.

So I think we must bear in mind that the conditions of settlement will be very difficult indeed. I believe that in the first instance a commission should be set up. It should be primarily a bilateral commission involving the countries concerned, that is Israel and the United Arab Republic, Israel and Jordan, and so on, in other words, the nations directly involved. However, I think there should also be an international commission which would consider seriously what would be a just settlement, because it is far too important to the countries other than those directly involved in the maintenance of peace, to leave the whole matter to them in the hope that they will reach final and lasting agreements. I say that, not in despair that they will not be able to reach any agreement, but because I believe that if such an agreement cannot be reached it should become the responsibility of an international commission. We think this is an essential step which should be taken at once.

I said I would be brief, and I will conclude by suggesting to the members of this committee that it is a well known fact that throughout the ages the Jewish people have suffered terrible persecution in all parts of the world.

[Mr. Olson.]

It should also be acknowledged and recognized that the Arabs gave up some land which they had occupied for centuries to provide at least a measure of settlement. I suggest that this partial settlement, whereby land was provided for the present state of Israel was a great relief to the conscience of the whole world because of the persecution of the Jewish people over the centuries. I think that because of that we owe a great debt to the Arabs and especially to the refugees.

● (9:10 p.m.)

I suggest that long term aid for the rehabilitation of refugees as well as to enhance the living standards of the area cannot be postponed again. The United Nations was able to buy ten years of time in 1956 to try to settle this problem. Unfortunately very little, if anything, of a lasting nature was done during that ten year period. The cost of providing this kind of aid in a humanitarian way is far less, and in my opinion, far more acceptable than the alternative which would be the cost of providing a massive, defensive war machine. The alternatives today are clear as they never have been before. I believe it is not difficult for Canadians to choose the alternative that is most acceptable to them.

Mr. Chairman, the United Nations has been put to the supreme test during these past few days. There was the need for taking some positive action or the organization would collapse. I sincerely believe that. I am not discrediting it or discounting the useful work it has performed in the past. What the United Nations was facing in the past few days was critical. There are no words which can over-emphasize the seriousness of that critical situation. It is for this reason I say the security council was obliged to bring forth some positive action or the whole world would have lost confidence in the purposes and functions of that organization.

I believe that the organization came through, perhaps because there was no alternative to saving the peace. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am glad to say things look better today than they have for a few days. As the minister has said, this is not the time for any disparaging remarks about the United Nations. The organization has come through. All we can do now is hope and pray that the aspirations of people for an effective settlement according to the resolutions passed in the security council will come to fruition as soon as possible.

Mr. Nesbitt: I think all of us in this committee are agreed on one thing, that is the