

Press:

But is there enough hope of making peace at this moment to justify not shipping arms and allowing the Soviet bloc to strengthen Egypt and the Arab states to a point where a year or so from now they will be able to defeat Israel?

Mr. Pearson:

I do not think so. I do not think it would be conducive to peace to allow the Communist states to change the balance of power in that area so that the Arab states would be so much more powerful in modern weapons that they might be tempted to attack Israel. You must remember that the Arab states have said that they will not recognize the existence of a state of Israel.

Press:

But, isn't that what the Russians are doing now?

Mr. Pearson:

It is what they are doing now. Isn't it important, therefore, to try to make some kind of arrangement with the other side, with the Communist side, not only to control arms to that area but to bring about peace there. That is why I welcome the reference of this matter at this time to the United Nations Security Council and I hope that as a result of that reference both sides, may at least try to work together to bring about a better solution than to ship arms to both sides.

Press:

If that effort failed, then would it be the thing to do to consider rebalancing this military situation in the Middle East, the situation that is developing?

Mr. Pearson:

I think, if that effort failed, then it would be surely not conducive to peace and security in that area to have all the arms going to one side.