

*External Affairs*

stake, felt morally obliged to accept a decision of the United Nations, proving beyond all doubt in my judgment that amongst civilized countries there is a moral force in the world which has got to be observed, which should be obeyed.

In the past, we in this group have been critical of British foreign policy when we thought criticism was demanded. At this moment, we have nothing but the greatest regard and indeed admiration for the very wise decision which was made by the leaders of the British people in accepting the request of the United Nations. The British government showed world statesmanship in the best sense of the word. It is possible, however, that that moral lead which was given by the United Kingdom is being dissipated by what appears to be United States pandering to the leaders of the Arabs in the Middle East.

Let me make it clear again—we tried to make it clear throughout the years—that we support the principle of the United Nations just as we support the United Nations. We are convinced that the alternative to collective security is collective extinction. We are convinced that if we destroy collective security, the probability is that there will be none left to enter the bodies of the next generation. So we think that this whole problem has to be tackled, in so far as it can be, through the aegis of the United Nations.

Last November I presented to the house the position of this party. We see no reason to retract in any way whatever from what we said then, but perhaps I could summarize briefly what our policy was. First, we said that if necessary we should extend the United Nations police action to cover not only the borders between Egypt and Israel but also the borders between Israel and Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, because we believe it is of the greatest importance that peace must be maintained in that area. We asked that there be a peace treaty arrived at between Israel and the Arab states, and we know the extraordinary difficulties which lie in the road of that. We are convinced also that no matter how annoyed we may feel at certain individuals in the Middle East, no matter how angered we may be by their actions, it would be folly to let either annoyance or anger change us from a settled course. This course must be to secure a settlement in that area, through peace treaties arrived at between the opposing countries.

The third suggestion was that a solution must be found under the United Nations, to the Suez problem, a solution which will be just to all concerned. Then, we asked

that there be a resettlement and rehabilitation of the refugees. Those of us who have seen these refugee camps, as I have said in the past, realize the horrible conditions under which these people have to live. They are human beings and we have a moral obligation to them as human beings, even although we realize they are being used by the Arabs as pawns in the game of power politics. We cannot leave them forever in the wretched condition in which they are. There is an obligation on us, as there is on Israel and to some extent on the Arab countries, to help these refugees become rehabilitated.

Another suggestion was that there should be a Tennessee valley authority type of program instituted for the Nile valley to replace the scheme for the Aswan dam. My own feeling is that Mr. Dulles made a great mistake last year when he summarily cut off any hope Egypt may have had for financial assistance with the Aswan dam. The minister himself said that in Egypt there were serious population pressures which could only be an embarrassment to Mr. Nasser. These create economic problems which have to be confronted. While I admit that the situation which faces us now is primarily political, nevertheless we should not forget the underlying economic problems which have to be solved if security and peace is going to be maintained in the Middle East.

Another suggestion was that there should be a general United Nations economic program for the whole area to provide for the use of such waters as the Jordan so that the desert in that region could become more fertile. There is still another one. While the threat is obviously shelved for the time being, we in this party will not be prepared to submit to the imposition of sanctions on Israel. Now, despite the fury of the last few months, one thing is manifest and that is that no problem has been solved in the Middle East. We have not returned to the status quo, that is true. Changes have occurred, but we have almost returned to it and I fear if the return is completed then we shall be faced again, without any question, with a further outbreak of war.

At the moment, no matter how much we may dislike it, it is obvious that in some ways Mr. Nasser has got the whiphand. As I say, whether or not we like it, it is one of the facts of the situation. Dependent upon his particular needs of the moment, dependent upon his whims, Mr. Nasser is either the victim or the victor, and to the Arab people I suppose he is both. Very few of the Arab people in the Middle East realize the magnitude of Nasser's military defeat. They have