

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Excerpts from a speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in the House of Commons November 29, 1956.

...During the earlier discussion of this subject I was asked to enlighten the House in respect to several matters. One matter was the reason we had not previously taken action in regard to a United Nations police force in this particular area. Another was -- and this has been brought up again by the hon. member for Greenwood -- the relationship of our action to Commonwealth unity...

The hon. member for Prince Albert asked particularly for enlightenment, as he put it, in regard to our previous attitude toward a United Nations emergency force for this particular area. I think he is satisfied with what I said earlier about our general attitude toward putting forces under the United Nations for general purposes and the difficulty of doing that under the Security Council organization as it is at present. I am sorry he is not able to be here this afternoon to decide whether or not what I am going to say about this matter is enlightenment. I would point out, and I have made a pretty careful survey of our record in this regard, that it was as early as 1953 that we discussed, with representatives of the United Kingdom Government in the course of our diplomatic exchange of views, the possibility of replacing the truce supervisory organization in the Palestine area with a police force which would have greater powers, and greater authority, and be able to do things which the truce organization could not possibly do, thereby making the situation easier and making war more difficult.

At that time, in 1953, the matter also came up, though not in public discussion, at the General Assembly of the United Nations. We had previous discussions with the British and took the matter up with the Secretary-General, who had himself been considering it. We were told at that time that in his opinion it would not be a desirable move to make publicly at the United Nations General Assembly.