

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

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Statement by the Secretary of State  
for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson,  
made in the House of Commons, January 25,  
1955.

In reply to what my hon. friend (Mr. Coldwell) has said, and also in reply to the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), I shall make a statement on this matter now, as follows:

The President of the United States yesterday sent to Congress an important message dealing with the situation in the Formosa straits. The President's proposals in this message are, of course, a matter of United States policy. The United States has particular commitments of its own in this area. These, and the effect of the President's message on them, will now be under consideration by Congress and it would not, of course, be appropriate for me, or for any member of this government, to comment on this aspect of the matter.

Although we are not involved in United States commitments in this area, we are of course deeply concerned over the dangerous situation existing there and we, with other free governments, are anxious that steps should be taken to bring to an end the fighting which has now been taking place for some time along the China coast.

In this message the President of the United States referred to the possibility of action by the United Nations to bring about a cease-fire. The United Nations has, in Indonesia, Palestine and in other parts of the world, been successful in bringing to an end fighting which might have had dangerous consequences, and if it could achieve similar results in this case it would be a cause, I am sure, of great satisfaction to us all.

If the question is raised in the United Nations - and there are reports that it will soon be raised - this would presumably take place in the Security Council of which Canada is not at present a member. However, we are being kept informed of developments in regard to the possibility of such a reference, and we are watching the