

by Canada at the United Nations since the beginning of the double crisis which now confronts the world.

In the Middle East the Arab nations have never reconciled themselves to the existence of Israel as an independent state. Our honourable colleague from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) has explained elaborately the situation, which may be summed up in the statement that peace has never been restored to that troubled area of the world. The purpose of the Arab states is simply to drive the Jews into the sea. Tragic incidents have multiplied during the last months. Aggression, of course, called for retaliation, at first on a minor scale and then with increasing frequency and rapidity. Although Israel, in trying to obtain redress for her grievances, may have made some errors, she also endured intolerable provocations, manifested in deeds as well as words. For instance as was noted by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity, she was denied the use, to which she was fully entitled, of the Suez canal. On that point Egypt refused to comply with a decision of the United Nations; and suddenly, on July 26, Colonel Nasser violated the treaty of Constantinople, of 1888, by forcibly taking possession of all the assets of *La Compagnie Universelle du Canal de Suez*. He then nationalized the canal, although the company was entitled to manage it until 1968.

This breach of the obligation which arose under the treaty of 1888 was, in my opinion, the immediate cause of what followed. Israel started a so-called preventive war. But under the Charter of the United Nations resort to armed force is now allowed, though only in the case of repelling an armed attack against a given country. Such is the provision of article 51. I believe in the rule of law in international as well as in domestic matters. Preventive war cannot be justified under the United Nations Charter, and this principle applies to Israel, to Great Britain, to France, and to all countries. Those two great countries to which we are so closely attached felt that it was in their vital interest to resort to armed intervention in the Middle East because hostilities between Israel and Egypt threatened the freedom of the Suez Canal, which is literally a lifeline to Great Britain and exceedingly important to France.

I appreciate all those facts, but I deeply regret that Great Britain and France invaded Egypt before they had exhausted all peaceful means of settlement—illusory as they may seem—provided by the Charter of the United Nations. I regret, too, that this military action was taken by Great Britain and France without their consulting other members of

NATO, and especially, in the case of Great Britain, her sister nations of the Commonwealth.

This action seems to have endangered the existence of NATO and the Commonwealth, but thanks to the efforts of our Prime Minister and thanks to the splendid and prompt action of our Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mr. Pearson, a solution was found—the only practical solution in these tragic circumstances. The United Nations General Assembly accepted Mr. Pearson's original suggestion that the Secretary General make arrangements for a United Nations' force to supervise cease-fire arrangements and to replace the Anglo-French forces in Egypt. This Canadian proposal saved the situation, and a United Nations Police Force, under the very able command of a great Canadian, General Burns, will ensure the cessation of hostilities in the Middle East, and, with the help of God, may make it possible to bring about a permanent settlement between Israel and Egypt, which is something we are all hoping for.

Canada has thus played a role of world leadership in the deliberations of the United Nations. Her action has kept the Asian members of the Commonwealth from leaving this great voluntary association of free nations to which we are so proud to belong. Canada has greatly contributed, also, to healing the breach which has momentarily separated Great Britain and France from the United States. The Canadian Government fully deserves our congratulations for what she has accomplished, and it should be given our support in the difficult days ahead. At the meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations it was towards Canada that the majority of member states were turning for guidance. This marks a historical occasion which should be a source of legitimate pride for all Canadians.

The case of Hungary is pitiful. I feel powerless in the face of such drama, and as a lover of democratic freedom I am overwhelmed with emotion when I think of the brutal aggression committed by communist Russia. Hungarian hospitals have been shelled, Red Cross ambulances have been set afire, and thousands upon thousands of Hungarian men, women and children, have been killed, wounded or deported. Those brave people were able to regain their liberty for only a few days, but we are confident that time will prove that the Hungarian workers and students who fought for freedom will not have shed their blood in vain, and that these tragic days will mark the dawn of a new freedom for all Hungarians. In the meantime the Canadian Government is doing