

GOVERNMENT



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STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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No. 57/17 STATEMENT BY MR. L.B. PEARSON, CHAIRMAN
OF THE DELEGATION OF CANADA, UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, February 26, 1957.

MIDDLE EAST

We are now reaching, if indeed we have not already reached, the point of no return in our effort to deal with the problems arising out of military intervention in the Suez area begun last October. So where do we go from here? Not, I hope, in a direction which would tend merely to harden existing antipathies or, in the words of the Secretary-General, to introduce "new elements of conflict."

The Canadian Delegation, like many other delegations here, has tried to take an objective and impartial position in dealing with the problems which came to a head when Israel's military action in the Sinai Peninsula began last October. We are not influenced by a desire to support either of the contestants at the expense of the other in our efforts to find a means of bringing to an end a conflict which has been growing in intensity over a period of some years. We are solely concerned with finding the best policy to pursue in order to resolve a series of difficult problems by means which will bring peace and security to the people of both countries. We have no other interest than this.

The problems with which we are dealing go deeper than the immediate issue of withdrawal of military forces. They have their roots in the past and are terribly difficult for both parties to the dispute. They are also fraught with danger to the peace of the world as well as to the peoples immediately concerned. This Assembly has a duty to avert that danger and to insist that it will not lead to violence.

We realize that the issues before us will never be truly solved if we are content to let our minds become submerged in tales of past tragedies. These, it is true, have given just cause for grief and bitterness on both sides, but we can scarcely hope for success if we allow ourselves to be persuaded that the record of violence in the past justifies a