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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

MR. PEARSON ON THE PALESTINE PROBLEM: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations, on November 22, delivered a statement in the First Committee at Paris on the Palestine problem. After reviewing events leading up to the present situation, the Minister proceeded as follows:

"...The situation which we now face is a result of both the clash of arms which has taken place on the soil of Palestine, and of the efforts which the United Nations has made to limit and control this conflict.

"What should we do now? The Mediator, whose death we all deplore and to whose memory I would like to pay a sincere tribute of gratitude and respect, answered that question in his last report, when he said:

"What is indispensable is that the General Assembly take a firm position on the political aspects of the problem in the light of all the circumstances since its last session, and that its resolution be so reasonable as to discourage any attempt to thwart it and to defy the Security Council order by the employment of armed force".

"There are certain basic elements in the situation as we see it which must be recognized if the Mediator's advice is to be taken. There are certain facts which must be accepted, if peace is to be restored and maintained.

"(1) The emergence of an independent Jewish state in Palestine as recommended by the Assem-

bly a year ago is one such fact which must be taken into account in the consideration of any further developments.

"(2) No indigenous Arab authority has emerged in Palestine which has yet demonstrated its ability to take over authority in areas which are not under the control of the Jewish state.

"(3) The additional territorial and political adjustments which must now take place in Palestine must be made, as far as possible, by the people of that territory themselves. The United Nations can and should make available its good offices in a number of forms, but the people who live in that area must bear the main responsibility for working out the terms of their own association. They can do this either directly or through mediation, but they must take responsibility for the decisions which are finally reached. Those who are directly concerned and who refuse to participate in such negotiations and decisions, take on themselves a very heavy responsibility.

"(4) This further process of settlement must be a peaceful one. The whole effort of the United Nations over the past year has been to keep, so far as possible, the peace in Palestine. Unfortunately we have not been able to prevent fighting from taking place. By and large, however, the truce has prevented large scale and continuous war and, in its most recent action, the Security Council has reaffirmed its determination that neither party in Palestine shall renew its efforts to settle