

*External Affairs*

that he is prepared to exploit any weaknesses or indecisions of the United Nations or of the free nations of the world. He has already allied himself with the peace-disturbing nations because they have promised him aid. What he does not seem to understand is that any help that he accepts from Russia or her satellite nations will be at great risk to the freedom and the future well-being of Egypt and Egyptians. There is now no doubt that the source of President Nasser's confidence and belligerence is Soviet Russia; and of course in anything that is done by any group of nations to meet the challenge Mr. Nasser has thrown out I think it would be well to bear in mind the fact I have just stated. It is an extremely sinister fact.

Of course it is necessary, I think, in any analysis of the situation, to dig back to the roots of the trouble in the Middle East if we are to understand fully the feelings and objectives of President Nasser. Unquestionably the attitude of Egypt is traceable, at least in part, to the action of the United Nations in establishing the state of Israel in 1947 out of territories which for many centuries the Arabs had looked upon as belonging to them. The people in Palestine, it is true, had been under the control of Britain since 1920; but Britain since 1920 had been carrying on the administrative jurisdiction over Palestine as a mandate, and in no sense did she have legal sovereignty over the area. But when, as a consequence of continuous and voluble Zionist demands, the United States took the lead in 1947 and pressured the United Nations into establishing the state of Israel without granting the people in that area the right of self-determination, which is the very cornerstone of United Nations policy, all Arabs united in their determination to destroy the new state and to exercise against it such sanctions that its destruction would be assured.

I took the position prior to 1947 and in 1947 while I was at the United Nations that it would be unwise, under the circumstances and at that time, to establish the Jewish state, because we said it would doubtless bring the world to the verge of a third world war. Our view was based on the feeling that the new state would doubtless attempt to expand its territory, and would thus come into direct conflict with Arab interests. We also took into consideration the expressed determination of the Arabs—which was quite common knowledge at that time and had been for months and months before the action of the United Nations to set up the state—never to recognize the new state, or to tolerate it even if it should be set up by the United Nations.

[Mr. Low.]

My position at that time was interpreted by many people, particularly political enemies, as stemming from anti-semitic sentiments. At that time I declared most solemnly, as I still maintain, that that interpretation was not so. I think I have proved beyond question through my actions and utterances since then that it was not so. As a matter of fact, for many years I had nourished the hope that a national home for the Jewish people could be found and established in a peaceful manner. My concern was based entirely on the belief, which has turned out to be quite correct, that the establishment of the state at that time and under the conditions in which it was established would inevitably lead to conflict and perhaps the third world war. Nobody can deny that what we foresaw and foretold at that time was true, and it did not take a prophet to do it.

However, Mr. Speaker, the state was established by the United Nations. An overwhelming number of members voted for it, amongst them Canada. The new state was immediately, in 1948, forced to fight a war for survival against a league of its Arab neighbours. The Jewish people have been returning to Israel in great numbers from all parts of the world ever since 1947. They have been building up and developing the country; and they have succeeded, with the help of many people in other lands, in establishing a strong government and a determined and willing people. It is the only stable position in the middle East today outside of Turkey.

It would seem to me therefore to be morally wrong and strategically senseless to allow this stable position to be undermined or destroyed. Since the United Nations established the state, it seems to me that the sensible position to take is that it should be allowed to work out its destiny as long as it does not interfere with the same rights of its neighbours. And, what is more, if any force or combination of forces engineered by Soviet Russia or President Nasser and any of their friends should threaten the destruction of this state or undermine its present stable position, then in my judgment it quite clearly would become the duty of the United Nations to come to its assistance and prevent the consummation of designs against it. It seems to me that is fundamental, and it seems only right and just that we look at it in that way.

When I say these things, of course, I am looking at the situation just as coldly and unemotionally as is possible. It would seem to me that there is no room here for emotional consideration, except a feeling of sympathy and understanding and charity towards a suffering people gathered from more than 60 nations of the world, who are trying to the