

that time that "this is a dangerous area, we will not ship any arms to it", Israel would have been destroyed by now. She would have had no means for defending herself. Similarly, if you took that position now: (the United Kingdom does not take it, France does not take it,) that we will not ship anything to this area. That would mean that Israel would be cut off from the means of defending herself while the Arab states would have free access to all the arms industries of the Communist states.

Press:

It just struck me that the entry of the Soviet into this situation has changed the situation a little bit. Here we have Czechoslovakia supplying arms to Egypt and destroying what Canada and, I think, the United States, has tried to maintain -- a balance of force, a disequilibrium. So, doesn't it follow that either Canada has to -- Canada or the United States, -- has to repair this imbalance and run the risk of getting into an arms race with Russia or sit back and wait?

Mr. Pearson:

I think so. I feel that the refusal on the side of the West to ship any arms to this area would not be a wise thing to do now. I think probably one of the most dangerous features of this situation is the feeling that Israel, the feeling on the part of Israel that she has now been isolated, that she is alone, that she is getting relatively weaker and that nobody is prepared to help her, while the Communist states are prepared to help the Arab states. That feeling might become so intense in Israel that it might even provoke a preventive action and I think we should try to remove that feeling. But, having said that, I add that Israel is not going to be saved by arms. This may be a good thing to do at the present time, controlled shipments of arms to Israel, but that is not, in the long run, going to save Israel. It would be a fine thing, for instance, if we could agree on both sides, on the Communist side and our side, not to ship any arms to that area. That would be one way of doing it but, in default of that, I think the present policy is not unwise. Nevertheless, and I said this in the House of Commons, the important thing is to make peace in that area, not to ship arms.