

action as a gesture of gratitude to Austria for the humane welcome given to Hungarian refugees during the tragic events in Hungary in 1956. We are indeed pleased to learn that a sister nation of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, is also planning to exercise the right to accede to the treaty.

Middle East Situation

Turning now from the European scene, it is perhaps appropriate that I should deal briefly with an area to which I referred a few moments ago, namely the Middle East. When I reported at length on my return from the Special Emergency Session of the United Nations at which the Middle East situation was considered, I told this House of a resolution passed by the General Assembly under which the Secretary-General was given power to see what he could do in the name of United Nations to meet the difficulties which existed at that time. Developments since then warrant my saying that we can look upon the situation at the moment with cautious satisfaction, and a great deal of credit for this is due to the Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjöld, who carried out so very successfully the task of undertaking the "practical arrangements", to use the words contained in the resolution.

It has been possible, under that resolution and through the activities of the Secretary-General, for the United Kingdom and the United States to withdraw their troops from Jordan and Lebanon respectively. That was done by November with the consent of all the powers concerned. The improved situation in Lebanon has enabled the Secretary-General to return to their national homes the units which made up UNOGIL.

On the other hand, on the Arab-Israeli front, there have been most regrettable incidents which indicate a certain amount of unrest between those two countries, and I am thinking not of the UNEF front but more particularly of the boundary between the Syrian region of the United Arab Republic and Israel. Nevertheless I think we can be reasonably confident that if Canada and other countries give continued support to the United Nations activities, and if there is shown a continued willingness on the part of all concerned to resort to United Nations machinery, no general deterioration should ensue.

The moderately encouraging developments to which I have referred have given us an opportunity to take stock and do some careful thinking about what should be our future attitude to events in the region as a whole. I am thinking of Canada in this context. We must, of course, realize that the relationship of the Middle East countries to one another and to the outside world is undergoing a very rapid transformation. The trends of thinking which we loosely describe as nationalism and neutralism are spreading widely and rapidly. In these countries these trends are there to stay.