

between any other two countries. But the United Nations Assembly is in session, and if we can set up a United Nations force for one purpose surely we can extend its functions and activities for another desirable purpose. I would hope that if the situation began to deteriorate beyond the point which required that kind of extension it would be done at this Assembly very quickly.

All I wish to say in my closing words is that the question of strengthening co-operation among the western democracies, especially among the United States, the United Kingdom, France and, of course, Canada, is one which must be kept in our minds behind all the present emergencies that have strained and weakened that co-operation. We must do what we can without recrimination to bring it back.

It is in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, that we shall continue our efforts at the United Nations to find solutions to problems which remain difficult and dangerous and have created situations which, if they are allowed to persist, can indeed be a very real threat to peace.

Mr. Nesbitt: Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs in a position to give us any idea as to the extent to which Russian arms were accepted by Egypt prior to the immediate trouble, and also by Syria?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I assume that when we get in committee I will have the opportunity of trying to answer a number of questions of this kind, but on the direct question I might say that we knew, of course, as was mentioned in the house last summer, that Russian arms and Russian equipment were going into Egypt. That was well known. It was also known they were going into Syria, though not in the quantities in which they have been going there in recent weeks. It was our impression at that time that the Russian arms going into Egypt were for the purpose of strengthening the Egyptian army. It is probably also true that Russian technicians went in with those arms. We did not know and we had no reason to believe that these arms were going into Egypt for any other purpose at that time than to strengthen the Egyptian army for use in military operations.

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