

obscured. He wondered what further measures could be taken to prevent the outbreak of war, if the United Nations police force idea were not considered practicable.⁵ Mr. Comay thought that a possibility being considered was that the governments of the United Kingdom, France and the United States should make it clear that they would intervene with armed forces against aggression. This would have the effect of protecting Israel with a security guarantee without putting it down on paper. Furthermore, it would allow quick action, should there be aggression, without depending on United Nations sanction, which would almost certainly be prevented by a Soviet veto. Mr. Pearson thought that action of this kind by Western countries, which by-passed the United Nations, would have serious implications, since it would lay the governments open to criticism that they had intervened from "imperialistic" motives without the approval of the United Nations. Mr. Comay agreed that this would be a difficulty.

6. The Israeli Ambassador went out of his way to make the point that United Kingdom policy in the Middle East was based on a consideration of particular British interests, which did not necessarily coincide with those of other Western powers. The Minister observed that the situation was so complex that it would be difficult for anyone to say what was the right thing to do. There was no doubt, however, that the recognition of the existence of the State of Israel was basic to any settlement. During the conversation reference was made to the annoyance of France at having been left out of the consultations on the Middle East.

7. Mr. Comay mentioned the subject of Israeli applications for arms from Canada. He said that he hoped the shipment of orders which had been approved could be expedited, now that the debate on External Affairs in the House had been concluded, and that certain pending applications could be approved. In the first category, he mentioned the 25 pounder ammunition and the machine guns. As to the second category, he said that he hoped it would be possible to ship more than twenty per month of the machine guns which had been ordered. (It had been agreed that 20 per month would be shipped but the Israelis have indicated before this that, for administrative reasons, they would like the monthly amount to be increased). Mr. Comay also hoped that approval could be given for 6 pounder anti-tank guns. Mr. Pearson replied that the matter of the moratorium on arms shipments to the Middle East was coming up for discussion by Cabinet. When a decision had been taken, we would be able to let the Israeli authorities know about the items which had already been approved. He reminded Mr. Comay that the 25 pounder shot had not been passed by Treasury Board and would have to come up again for formal approval. Mr. Comay repeated the hope that Canadian authorities would be notified immediately that the moratorium was lifted, so that consignments which were already on the docks could be shipped without further delay. The Minister reassured Mr. Comay on this point and said that appropriate authorities would be notified by telegram. Mr. Pearson said that he could not discuss future approvals of arms shipments until policy on this matter had been decided.⁶

8. The Israeli Ambassador expressed a wish to see the Minister again after a decision on the arms moratorium has been taken. He also said that he would be at the Minister's disposal, if any elucidations were required of the papers he had handed him. Mr. Pearson

⁵ L'idée a été discutée pendant les pourparlers anglo-américains et rapportée dans le *New York Times* le 1^{er} février 1956.

This idea was discussed during the Anglo-American talks and reported in the *New York Times*, February 1, 1956.

⁶ Voir/See Document 19.