

*External Affairs*

I must interpolate here that it is an awesome thought that vehicles can be launched and within a few moments go thousands of miles with an aim that is remarkably accurate. This in itself is a challenge to the statesmanship of the world. At the same time there is an equal challenge to statesmen throughout the world, and that is outer space. It seems presumptuous for us to be talking about outer space, but its use is coming within man's grasp. We should not translate to outer space the national rivalries to be found on this globe.

Last autumn the United Nations established a committee for the study of the control and use of outer space, and Canada was happy to be appointed to that committee. The U.S.S.R. has refused to attend any meetings of that committee, of which it is also a member. They complain about the composition of the committee. They complain that they did not receive parity in the selection of the committee. That is most regrettable, and efforts are being made within the United Nations, under the umbrella of which this outer space committee has been established, to break this deadlock.

I have been talking about the European scene. I said in this house last August with some confidence that the tenseness of the Middle East situation had somewhat abated, and I stated that in that pause there was some ground for gratification. Since then from the Middle East the pendulum has swung to the Far East and now it has come back to Europe, which has been in a period of relative quiescence in recent years.

I have one item to report with respect to the European scene which will bring satisfaction. I announce that it is the intention of the government to present a resolution to the house for approval, and I expect this resolution will be welcomed by all hon. members. The government will request parliament to adopt a resolution approving the accession by Canada to the Austrian state treaty of 1955. This is the treaty which terminated a 10-year occupation of Austria, and it marked the re-emergence of Austria as a free and independent nation. The treaty was negotiated between Austria and the four occupying powers at that time, the United States, United Kingdom, France and the U.S.S.R. Under the treaty of 1955 provision was made for the accession of any country which had fought against Nazi Germany. Accession by Canada, I can assure the house, will not increase our rights, neither will it increase the responsibility which we have undertaken under the charter of the United Nations.

Canada's accession, when it takes place, will be at the request of the Austrian government,

[Mr. Smith (Hastings-Frontenac).]

and it is an action which we take willingly as a mark of friendship and sympathy for a country whose achievements we admire. In particular we take this 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.

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 States and the United Kingdom 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 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