

Supply—External Affairs

We will have much to do to improve the life and living conditions of the Arab peoples, and certainly of the Arab refugees. So far as I am aware, the only country over the years that has taken in any of the Arab refugees has been Iran. The others did not want to take them in because, in a manner of speaking, they wanted to keep the trouble spot glowing. Some arrangements will have to be made to settle these people, and if countries like Egypt, Iraq and Lybia will not take them, arrangements will have to be made to provide them with permanent homes elsewhere.

I see it is nearly a quarter to ten, Mr. Chairman, and there may be other hon. members who want a chance to speak. I think we should have had a longer debate on this subject, but that is not to be the case. I think I have covered most of the points I wished to cover and so I will accordingly close.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Chairman, it is not very easy to speak on such a broad issue in so few minutes at such a time of day. We have had, as was to be expected, not many new ideas expressed today, perhaps because there are not too many new ideas which may be applied to this difficult area of the world. But hopefully, after what we have passed through, to some of the old ideas there might be brought some new will and some determination of purpose that we did not have previously.

I think most sensitive people in the world have been fearful in the last few days, literally afraid that that word Armageddon might in fact become a fearful and awful reality, and that the part of the world which was the cradle of mankind could become its grave. We had come close to the brink. We have often come close to the brink, but if there is one hopeful thing about these crises it is that it would appear that the boiling point has gone up a great deal in our time.

Things which would have created war 25, 50 or 100 years ago have been passed by. We have looked into the awful pit and somehow or other we have had wisdom enough to pull back. We all went through the same emotional experience over the Cuban crisis. With all its faults the United Nations is something to which we must cleave, to which we must give our best because, putting it very simply, Mr. Chairman, it is all we have. It has had its failures and it has had its successes. It is a body stronger structurally than the League of Nations, and I think it is stronger in a way that is often most criticized, namely that

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

through the composition of the security council it shows a realism that, on the great questions of war and peace, unless you have some sort of accommodation among the great powers the goal will not be attained. The old classic concept of the concert of Europe is involved in this realistic structure of the security council. As we have been talking this last few days about the permanent members of the council we have constantly referred to four. Strictly speaking there are five, and why do we do not say five is itself an indication of something very important.

I agree with many of the suggestions that have been made. Much more must be done in financial terms. Much more must be done with respect to the terrible human problem of these suffering refugees. Many people are responsible for the plight of these people, including Israel, but I would think not primarily Israel. However, aid and finance alone will not solve these problems, which are as old as time itself. Man has slain his fellowman in the Holy Land for generation upon generation. There are ancient hatreds; there are remembrances of egregious errors which have been made, of covenants which have been broken, of promises which have not been fulfilled. We would be very naïve indeed, Mr. Chairman, to believe that it will be any easier tomorrow for Arab to speak to Jew, and for the enemies who have just gone through a war to be more readily prepared to work hand in hand and to attack problems many of which indeed affect, if not afflict, both peoples.

So, I think that while we are all feeling a sense of relief that the worst did not happen, and are all profoundly grateful that great power accommodation did take place under the aegis of the United Nations, these problems remain to be tackled. I think it is very important that the great powers met under the aegis of the United Nations. I was not at all happy at the prospect of the four great powers withdrawing to some part of the world in summit conference, thus figuratively closing the doors to the United Nations.

Some things must be said about the great powers. I think great leadership was exercised by Washington, a place often criticized by some of our Canadians. Perhaps the Soviet union was realistic. Perhaps it might have acted differently had not the heroic and brilliant Israeli army done what it did. We do not know, but foreign policy is a very realistic science if it is to be successful, and we have to take stock of the realistic aspects.