

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 19, 1957

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GAZA—REPORTED WITHDRAWAL OF UNEF TO
DEMARICATION LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he tell the house whether or not the reports in the press this morning are accurate, which are summed up in the heading in the *Globe and Mail*, as follows:

Move To Armistice Line
U.N. Agrees to Move Troops From All Gaza Strip Towns

The report says that an agreement has been reached between the Egyptians and the officials of the United Nations emergency force to this effect.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I saw the story to which my hon. friend refers, and I have been assured by the office of the Secretary General of the United Nations that there is no truth whatever in it. It is a story that originated in Cairo, and I think we can assume by now that a good many of those stories that originate there are without foundation; certainly this one is.

Mr. Green: I understand the minister attended the meetings of the advisory committee of the United Nations emergency force over the week end. Can he tell the house what is to be the function of the emergency force in the Gaza strip in view of the developments last week?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can do that on the orders of the day today. There is another meeting of the advisory committee going on at the present time. After that meeting the secretary general is leaving for Cairo to conduct negotiations in the Middle East with a view to clarifying the resolutions of the United Nations assembly laying down the functions of this force. I think that perhaps tomorrow or the next day I will be able to make a statement when I have heard the results of his talks in New York and perhaps in Cairo.

GULF OF AQABA—REPORTED BARRING OF
ISRAELI SHIPPING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Carl O. Nickle (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs which is supplementary to the one directed to him yesterday. Now that the Saudi Arabia government has announced that it considers the gulf of Aqaba its own territorial waters and that it is intended to bar the gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping, what steps does the Canadian government intend to take to implement the clear statement of government policy which the minister announced yesterday in reply to a question on this matter?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I assume the government of Israel will take its own steps to protect its own shipping in international waters, and I assume also that disputes as to whether those waters are international or territorial will be decided in the proper international tribunal. Meanwhile it will have been noted by my hon. friend that an Israeli ship, I think named *The Queen of Sheba*, went through these waters yesterday and through the straits of Tiran without any interference by anybody. That ship went through the gulf on the way to Eritrea, I think, which at least is an encouraging sign for the future.

INCOME TAX

PREMIUM IRON ORES—CANADIAN PROTEST TO
U.S. AUTHORITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, notice of which I sent to his office and I hope he received it. Has the government received any reply to the aide memoire that was sent to Washington some time ago relative to the Premium Iron Ores tax case, and does the minister not think the Canadian government should now lodge with the United States government a much stronger protest than was contained in the aide memoire against this attempt on the part of American authorities to impose income taxes on a purely Canadian company?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): To the first question the answer is yes. A reply dated December 3 was received, and we were informed that the