

SUEZ, RIGHT OR WRONG

by Isaac Bickerstaffe

In times of stress, people often lose reasonable perspective, which would otherwise act as a guide toward the formation of sensible opinion. To illustrate what I mean, I would take a current example with which we should all be familiar.

Britain and France have attacked Egypt . . . Isreal attacked Egypt prior to this . . . Great Britain lost control of the Suez Canal a short while, when Egypt exerted her sovereign interest in a canal within her own borders . . . The United Nations has overwhelmingly expressed disapproval of the action of the United Kingdom and France . . . The United Nations Charter speaks out decisively against force as a means for international conciliation. . . The United Kingdom and France are members of the United Nations . . .

These are merely reiterations of the basic facts of the Middle East situation. From them, it would seem that Britain and France are guilty of violation of the United Nations' Charter, to which they assigned their signatures.

Yet, there appears to be another brace of facts upon which some groups base their opinions.

Egypt had no right to wrest control of the canal away from the United Kingdom . . .

The canal should be under International authority to assure free passage of ships from all nations. . . .

Great Britain has the right, pursuant in a treaty with Egypt, to intervene in the canal zone, if it appears threatened. . .

Great Britain is doing the only thing possible in the circumstances. . . .

The United Kingdom and France are possibly averting world war by their timely action

Great Britain should have the support of the United Nations and particularly the British Commonwealth, of which Canada is a member. . . .

It is on these statements, basically, that some persons base their belief that Great Britain and France are only exerting their legal prerogative in Egypt. Yet, it will be seen, on closer examination, that these assumptions, for the most part, are based on mere speculation of what Britain "should do" and not on what she's done, or what she has to do as a member of the United Nations.

The only right Great Britain and France had to the Suez Canal stemmed from the belief that Egypt could not manage it herself and that these two countries held controlling shares in ownership. However, it was seen, following Egypt's seizure of the waterway, that this country could administer the canal and did so, in the face of considerable odds. In seizing the canal, the Egyptian Government offered to reimburse stockholders, at current market price. The canal was seized to satisfy Egypt's urge for national sovereignty, and it would appear, to partially pay for construction of the Aswan Dam. Seizure of the canal is parallel in degree to Iran's nationalization of the oil fields.

That the canal should be under International Control might be termed prudent at some future date. Yet, it does seem strange that Britain should demand this only after she, herself, has lost control. Might not it be possible for another country to efficiently operate the canal as well?

The mere fact that Great Britain agreed to a pact of armed assistance in the case of threat in the canal area illustrates a rather discouraging attitude toward the charter of the U.N. Surely, an accredited member of the UN, subscribing, as she must, to that organization, would not bind herself to a treaty of armed intervention?

Great Britain is not doing the only thing possible in the circumstances. Rather, she is doing the one impossible thing, flouting the United Nations to the world, and giving one simple and explicit example of why the UN is not more successful. To set up an organization, subscribe to its regulation, and then, at the first crucial time, scrap it, in favour of force, would not strengthen it; to cut off a tree at the roots does not promote growth.

Resort to war cannot, I think, after intelligent thought, be termed a means of averting war. This is especially true in this troubled time, when half the world is ranged against the other and when the science and technology of war have become so destructive. War can no longer be thought of as a series of battles between two or three countries, where the only stake is territory. War, can, in other words, no longer be provincial. It is total. World tension is such that the smallest spark could set off a mighty conflagration, that we, as members of the human race, might not be able to control. Thus, with the international situation as it is, Great Britain and France might very well cause the thing which they, in repeated statement, claim to be averting. . . .

If Canada and the other members of the British Commonwealth agree to support Great Britain, would not they, as members of the United Nations, be denying its existence also? Does the failure of Canada to officially support the United Kingdom constitute a subversion of the Commonwealth? If Great Britain expects her commonwealth to give aid, she should consult them before becoming involved. The only ties with Great Britain in Canada are of a sentimental nature. If these ties are put to strain, it is, I think, a great pity. However, Canada has not strained them, Britain has, and in doing so, has, herself further weakened the Commonwealth.

If the United Nations is to succeed, all problems within its jurisdiction should be submitted to international deliberation. It has been stated that the United Kingdom and France were obliged to intervene because the UN would never set up an International Police Force. It has done so. Even if France and Britain had not intervened, the ensuing war, much less destructive than the

SHARING A ROOM

Sharing a room is fun. You appreciate it most of all when your room-mate goes home for the week-end, for then an atmosphere of quiet and studious application descends, disappearing with her reappearance. The layout of our room is peculiar in many ways, but much can be learned if you are interested in trying to cram as many things into as little space as possible.

"Bedroom" and "lounge" are combined along one side of the wall. Then about the distance away in which the proverbial cat may be swung is the wash-basin, combining the functions of bathroom and kitchen — this often leads to confusion and the cleaning of saucepans with tooth-paste. The desk, the centre of all study, is conveniently near a very large cupboard in which food may be found. The proximity of the two has many advantages, for as everyone knows, intellectual activity requires more food to keep it going than any other kind of activity.

In the middle of the room is spare floor decorated with chairs (which it would be a point of bad manners to sit on) being intended to pile things upon. The floor in the middle is for the gay flinging of coffee parties, and next morning, for the walking of bare feet on cake crumbs.

You should always try to be kind and thoughtful, I have found, and I have devised many inconspicuous little ways of helping my room-mate, which other students may try to follow, if they are not already aware of them. Sometimes your room-mate may be in danger of oversleeping. Never let this happen. She will grow slothful. As soon as you have woken-up, start singing tuneful melodies such as "Love and Marriage" or "Oh my Darling, Darling One." Then fling your pillow on the picture of sleeping innocence (which is your room-mate) and with a bound out of bed which shakes the whole room, fling open the windows letting the glorious icy draughts permeate every corner of the room. But don't stop there! Stumble and knock into things, fall over chairs, kick shoe horns along the floor, pries open drawers with difficulty and rattlings which will echo round your room-mate's head — for yes, she is now conscious! At long last your duty done, you can crawl back into bed.

There are many other golden rules. If you are anxious to avoid

present one, would have made a similar action necessary. Israel's attack on Egypt was a clear case of aggression. Would not the United Nations, bolstered by the support of Great Britain and France, be able to deal with direct violation of its charter? The same type of police force would have had to be employed in the advent both sides refused to honour a cease-fire directive. Had this been the case, Great Britain and France would not have been censured by the United Nations, and the same result would accrue. However, this has not been the case, so the world is faced, in the body of the UN, with solution of a more complex problem. Indeed if the UN had been able to adapt this problem to normal regulatory machinery, the UN would have had more time to consider means of improving the deplorable situation in Hungary.

In a problem of this sort we should not lose sight of the basic facts, and thus let our judgement become clouded with ill-founded assumptions. There have been several actions on the part of some governments. These actions clearly fall within the jurisdiction of the UN. Regardless of what has happened, we should govern our actions in the future on the basis of a desire for international peace. Assumptions based on what we "should have" or "should do", without reference to the UN, will serve no useful purpose and can only hasten the day when there will exist no international organization pledged to support peace and international order.

What's A Man's Religion?

From—"The Sennet"

Not the church creed which he professes, the articles of faith he will sign, and in words or deeds otherwise assert; not this wholly; in many cases not this at all. We see men of all kinds of professed creeds attain to almost all degrees of worth or worthlessness under each or any of them.

This is not what I call religion, this profession and assertion, which is often only a profession and assertion from the outworks of man, from the mere argumentative region of him, if even so deep as that. But the thing that a man does practically believe, the thing a man does practically lay to heart . . . That is his religion; or it may be, his mere scepticism and no religion.

biffs and triffs, it is wise to respect your room-mate's relations not only in the flesh, but also in effigy. Never, never watch while the photograph of your room-mate's boy-friend or great uncle, slowly slips down behind the dressing table, owing to your accidentally having knocked it down. Falling things have a fascination of their own, but you cannot go away and leave it there. Nor must you use a photograph for a tea-pot stand.

The communal sharing of food and especially of biscuits is much to be recommended, in preference to solitary scrunchings by one partner in the middle of the night. There may be arguments as to who will do the washing up after your next door neighbours have been invited in to coffee (because you have run out of food yourself). The best things to do is to pull the cups, saucers and plates back again in the cupboard as they are until you both cool down. Once in a calm frame of mind you can forget all about them.

Another source of discord may arise from the long line of empty milk bottles on the window sill. Who will get rid of them? An agreeable solution is to divide the number exactly by two and take half each to the dairy miles down the road.

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