

Supply—External Affairs

Nasser's policy of genocide. If we are neutral toward that policy, we are denying everything in the United Nations charter.

If the government had decided that it would be neutral, at least it should have been consistent and acted in a neutral manner, rather than giving clear indications that it was siding against the Arabs. Instead of acting in the way it did, I think the government should have come out clearly and distinctly and said that it thought that Nasser was wrong in his attempt to wipe out Israel, that it was genocide, and that that was against all United Nations' principles. Instead of that the present government said, "No, we are neutral." The Prime Minister said in his interview: "I have no feeling one way or another on the subject." These contradictory statements by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs all have succeeded in annoying the Arabs, and as a result our troops were ordered to get out because of this government's pronouncements. If that was not the government's fault, I do not know what was.

I wish to say another thing, too. One cannot be all things to all men at all times as the minister and the government so often have tried to be. Sometimes you have to stand for what you think to be right.

I wish the hon. member for Montreal who is always making observations would occasionally get up and make a speech.

Mr. Prud'homme: He is not from Montreal.

Mr. Nesbitt: One of the most severe problems that we face now, and this is something that has been postponed from one day to the next for a long time, is the question of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza strip who number now about one and a half million persons. The presence of these refugees for many years has been the main bone of contention, and they are now causing trouble. One thing also is quite clear. Though the United Nations emergency force worked moderately well for ten years nobody, but nobody, paid much serious attention to the basic issue of solving the difficulties of these refugees. I do not blame any government for this, because all governments in part are responsible. The fact is that the United Nations is always under pressure to deal with urgent matters because emergencies have arisen. Also, these urgent problems in the Middle East have apparently been overlooked for ten years, since there was no immediate emergency in the area. Every year, before the so-called "old

chestnut" committee where such problems are brought up, the Arab refugee problem was aired and nobody did much about it. Everybody said, "We shall have to wait; time will cure it; maybe it will go away." But it never did go away.

Then there is the question of the water rights in the Jordan river, not to mention access to the gulf of Aqaba. Nobody made any serious attempt in the last ten years to solve those problems. As the minister said, some serious attempt must be made to solve them, or we shall need a four power guarantee or large numbers of troops in the area for a long time to come. If something is not done the Egyptians or some of the others will arm again.

Other problems will arise because of the immediate and troublesome question of oil. Some Arab countries, Iraq, Lybia and Algeria, announced that they had cut off oil supplies to Britain and France. Though it would be more costly for Britain to import oil from the United States she will not place her future economy in danger again by having to rely on the whim and caprice of emotional Arab leaders. If Great Britain makes other arrangements to obtain her oil, that will remove a large percentage of the national income of these already impoverished countries and that, in turn, will present a serious problem to the United Nations.

● (9:40 p.m.)

The United Nations will have to provide a great deal of additional economic aid to these countries, the oil sales of which are thus curtailed, over a long period of time. Then there is the question also of the Israeli borders and, as has already been suggested today, Israel should be given the entire city of Jerusalem.

Possibly some of this area should be made an international territory, and it should be made clear that Israel has the right of entrance to the gulf of Aqaba so that we do not still have it as a bone of contention. Also, something should be done about water supplies from the river Jordan. These are the things which have to be dealt with.

Also, to stabilize the area the great powers and the United Nations should give much additional aid to Arab countries because poverty in those countries is an indirect contributing factor to much of the trouble. They see considerable progress and prosperity in Israel. Possibly it is the fault of their own leaders that they do not have the same in theirs. These are festering sores and much must be tackled in the long range.