



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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UN EMERGENCY SESSION ON MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Statement by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons, August 23, 1958.

I welcome this opportunity to give to the members of the committee a report on the proceedings of the special emergency meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations which was adjourned on Thursday evening last.

I have prepared a statement for the information of the members of the committee. That statement will have to do with an account of the proceedings, and then I will attempt to offer some evaluation of what was achieved there, the part the Canadian Delegation attempted to play, and some ideas about the immediate and long-term future that the unanimously adopted resolution may have for the peace and security of the world.

I would begin, Mr. Chairman, by recalling very briefly why the emergency special meeting of the General Assembly was convened. As we all know, Mr. Chairman, the immediate reason for holding this special emergency meeting of the General Assembly was the fact that the Security Council on August 7 had under consideration complaints that had been made to the Security Council by Lebanon and by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan concerning interference by other countries in their domestic affairs.

It had, of course, been hoped in the period immediately prior to that meeting that some means of resolving the issue involved might be found through the calling of a Security Council meeting of a rather special character, at which heads of state might attend and at which heads of states, great powers and others, could get together, formally and informally to discuss problems of the Middle East. Many of us had in mind that at such a meeting at a high level other countries which were not members, which were not represented on the Security Council but which were directly concerned with the problems of the Middle East, would be given an opportunity to present their views concerning those problems.