

*Supply—External Affairs*

same course has been followed by the present government, despite the views expressed by the minister and by the Prime Minister.

I referred to the Prime Minister earlier. There is one quotation I think I should place on the record, a statement made by him on April 27, 1961. He said that he thought the only piece of advice he had given to the minister was, to use his words as found on page 4085 of *Hansard*:

—sympathetic consideration should be given by the minister now to something which he seemed to be considering very sympathetically a year or so ago, the problem of Canadian association with the organization of American states.

Now, sir, what I intend to do is deal with several subjects, endeavouring to follow as closely as I can the order in which the minister presented his argument when he dealt with Canada's membership in the various organizations and then with Canada's responsibilities. He mentioned, among other things, that I would have some knowledge of the situation in Yemen. He pointed out that Canada had a representative group under the United Nations in that distracted country. He did not go into any detail regarding the position of the United Arab Republic, which placed some 30,000 men in that country to uphold the revolutionary government that took over, nor did he deal with the resolutions of the United Nations in that connection. He did express the view that it would not be very long, as I understood him, before this Yemen problem would be solved. The solution, of course, would require the removal of these troops. Personally, I do not believe there is any possibility of the removal of any substantial portion of the troops of the United Arab Republic from Yemen this year or even next. Therefore, consideration will have to be given to additional members being recruited, through the United Nations, for the observation unit there.

I feel I should now pass to a personal matter having to do with a visit I made during the month of September to the United Arab Republic and also to Israel. I want to say immediately that it was my first visit to the United Arab Republic. The respect and regard for Canadians in that country is heart-warming. I had made available to me an aircraft to take me all over that country. I met not only the prime minister but the foreign minister, who is an old friend of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Fawzi. I had a long talk with President Nasser. The hospitality and warm consideration shown to me and to my wife, on behalf of Canada, was heart-warming. We saw evidence of the dramatic building of a nation. We saw a great desert in which vast improvements have taken place, one of which is the

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

construction of the Aswan dam. When it is finished, it will provide the last source of water for that vast country and it will mean that only 4 per cent of the entire area will be cultivatable. The only hope that they have of this desert blooming as the rose is that ultimately solar power may be used to produce water for the soil from the sea.

I visited the United Nations emergency force. The commanding officer, an Indian, was one of the most striking men I have ever met, Major General P. S. Gyani. I visited the Canadian corps and saw there something of the contribution that Canada has made. Out of a force of 5,100 on the Gaza strip, one fifth are Canadians.

I realize that some will not agree with the view I am about to express. President Nasser impresses me as a man with tremendous capacity and ability, dedicated to the building of his country. While from time to time he makes speeches that are inflammatory against Israel, I believe that the attitude of the leaders in Egypt and in Israel has greatly ameliorated the bitterness of a few years ago. Prophecy is one of the most dangerous pursuits in which one in politics can indulge, but on the basis of discussions with the president and other representatives of the United Arab Republic, I do not believe that they have in contemplation the launching of any attack against Israel.

Now then, the government is one that practises state trading, a kind of totalitarian socialism. It decries communism and at the same time it has close relationships with those who are communist. Marked changes have taken place in the past few years. Education has been widely extended in the desire to raise standards, and this gives one the impression President Nasser is a leader with an ambition in life to restore something of the ancient grandeur of his country, which had one of the earliest civilizations. At the same time he seeks to maintain the peace.

Following my visit to Egypt for a week, I went to Israel. This was my second visit there and the changes in 10 years are beyond words to describe. The discoveries, the archaeological excavations, have established beyond peradventure that the Old Testament is in fact not only a book of faith but a true book of history. Practically everything in the Old Testament that was regarded by the agnostic as being fairy tale has been proven, in the light of 10 years' excavations, to be fact.

I was received by the president and met the prime minister, the minister of foreign affairs and other members of the cabinet. I met David Ben-Gurion who spoke in glowing terms of Canada and referred to several hon. gentlemen opposite, two of whom are before me at the moment—the Secretary of State for