

*Arab-Israeli War*

by some of the interpretations placed upon the minister's responses of yesterday. This perhaps shows the difficulty and the danger of dealing with complicated matters through the interstices of the question period.

The United Nations Security Council resolution 242 called for secure and recognized boundaries for every state in the region, not for Israel alone. Israel was born in travail, bloodshed and terrorism and as a result of now well known double-dealing by the great powers of a generation ago. If we go back only to 1948 to try to get some of the roots of the present trouble and the dangers, we are not going back nearly far enough. The activity in the first great war by the then great powers is a shameful chapter: promises made to Jews, promises made to Arabs for favours to be received—promises which were mutually and internally contradictory. And yet we recognize today that Israel is a creation of the international community.

A few years ago when addressing a conference on the Middle-East situation in the ancient city of Cairo I said, making it clear at the time I believed that in that at least I was expressing the views of my fellow citizens, that Israel had the right to exist and that this is the Canadian point of view. I said further—this I said later in Tel Aviv—that I did not conceive that Israel has the right to exist on borders of its own choosing. This is an entirely different matter. The acquisition by force of lands of Arab countries is a constant disruptive irritant in the whole Middle-East. If secure boundaries for Israel mean diminished territory for her neighbours, can the world be astonished if those neighbours refuse to tolerate the continuance of such diminution of their sovereign territory?

Would it be likely that that situation could form the bedrock of lasting peace or the foundation of working agreements? We know in our hearts what the answer must be, so the question of space, the question of borders and the question of territory must be solved before peace can descend upon this long troubled region.

More vital than land, because people are always more vital than land, more significant, more precious, morally more compelling is the question of the Palestinian refugees. A million and a half people uprooted from their homes, fleeing in panic, fear and tragedy now residing in squalor, with glum resignation, in refugee camps. Mr. Speaker, I visited many of these concentrations of human deprivation. Having seen them, I shall never be the same again. To have this monumental human tragedy continue for a quarter of a century is a dark blot on the escutcheon and conscience of mankind, not only of the peoples in the area, not only of the combatants but of all of us.

I do not think it is enough, whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare does or not, for us to make grants to UNRWA. We do that; I am glad and proud that we do it, but it is not enough. No solution to the Middle-East crisis is possible without meaningful application and concern by others to the fate of these dispossessed people, thousands upon thousands of whom have never known a home but only a shack, a camp.

No matter what may be done in the peace force—and the signs at the moment are not encouraging, although I am impressed by the British foreign secretary's suggestion of this afternoon—I would hope that whatever Canada did, we would try to galvanize other countries to determine

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

that this particular irritant, this particular outrage, this particular stimulant to hatred and war must be dealt with with energy, dispatch and compassion.

I am reading the second volume of the autobiography of a great Canadian, Mr. Pearson. I read of the role he performed in 1956. Although the conditions are different today, I would like to see Canada move forward for peace. I would like to see Canada use every ounce of its moral leadership, and it has a good deal, to call upon all of these people. I agree with the spokesman for the Social Credit party that there are people beyond the region who are fishing in troubled waters and the world is suffering from their meddling.

I would hope that Canada would use its moral leadership to have the United Nations act through the Security Council—and there are provisions for bringing the matter before the General Assembly—so that world opinion may be mobilized to put to all these combatants the urgent necessity that they stop the war and begin, at long last, the peace.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt evident to hon. members that, because of my background, I am perhaps more emotionally involved in the tragic events in the Middle-East than some others in this House. But I hope that I can, none the less, try to view the situation objectively and fairly.

International debate has developed a language of its own, a language replete with insincerity, hypocrisy and double-talk. The result is deliberate confusion and obscurantist statements that do not say what they mean, nor mean what they say. This is the kind of thing we hear at the United Nations now from many quarters, but more particularly from the Soviet Union.

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I often get the impression that I am witnessing a lynch mob ready to tear Israel apart. This is the central issue. What is at stake is the survival of Israel and perhaps the survival of the 2½ million to 3 million men, women and children of Jewish origin in that country. The Hitler holocaust is too clear in the memories of all decent human beings and is particularly too clear in the minds and hearts of Israelis for them not to defend themselves and their country with the passion and determination they have shown in four wars in one generation.

It is important, Sir, to recall that the State of Israel was established by the world community by a solemn resolution of the United Nations adopted unanimously. That resolution followed a report by a special commission on Palestine on which you may remember the distinguished Canadian, the late Mr. Justice Rand, served. It is also relevant to recall—and this is where the tragedy begins—that from the first day the Arab states refused to accept the decision of the United Nations and the first war, the war of 1948, ensued.

Modern Israel was born in conflict and in blood through no intention of the Israelis or the Jews who went there for safety and security. Ever since that day the issue has remained the same. Israel's Arab neighbours have never been willing to recognize or accept the existence of Israel as an independent sovereign state in the Middle-East.