

External Affairs in Parliament

STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

The purpose of this section is to provide a selection of statements on external affairs by Ministers of the Crown or by their parliamentary assistants. It is not designed to provide a complete coverage of debates on external affairs taking place during the month.

In the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the 5th Session of the 22nd Parliament on January 8, 1957 the Governor General said, in part:

The international scene continues to be characterized by instability in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe.

My Ministers remain convinced of the need to maintain the basic unity of the Commonwealth and the reality of the Western alliance, to contribute effectively to the supervision of the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Egypt under the authority of the United Nations and to the achievement of a lasting settlement of Middle East problems.

Visits to Canada in the last few weeks by the Prime Ministers of Ceylon and India have been conducive to a renewed strengthening of the bonds which unite the peoples of the Commonwealth in their constant aim to co-operate in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress.

An encouraging advance is being made, as evidenced by the latest Ministerial Meeting of the Council, in the development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the non-military as well as in the military field. My Ministers remain strongly convinced of the need to maintain the North Atlantic Treaty as the keystone of the defence of the Western nations.

In the Middle East Canadian servicemen, as part of the United Nations Emergency Force proposed by Canada at the General Assembly of the United Nations, are performing valuable tasks in the interest of world peace.

The United Nations has served to focus world opinion on the brutal repression of the heroic Hungarian people in their endeavour to throw off the yoke of the Soviet imperialism. The vast humanitarian problems that have arisen as a result of Soviet intervention require the joint efforts of many countries. Through the United Nations, the Red Cross, and in co-operation with the Government of Austria, this country is playing its part in relieving suffering and re-settling the refugees.

The entrance into Canada of Hungarian refugees has been greatly facilitated and free transportation provided from Austria to new homes in this country. Already thousands of these Hungarians have been welcomed to Canada and we look forward to receiving thousands more during the winter and spring. There are also substantially increasing numbers of immigrants from the British Isles arranging to proceed to Canada this year.

Recent events have confirmed my Ministers' belief in the importance of seeking solutions to international problems through the United Nations and of upholding by all practical and constructive means the principles of the United Nations Charter. My Ministers also believe, however, that