

*Supply—External Affairs*

tribute to it. It is in a situation like this that one realizes what we owe to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to the Canadian foreign service. We are not dealing with an ordinary matter. In my judgment this has certainly been potentially the most dangerous situation, possibly excluding Cuba, since the end of the second world war. I say that, fully aware of the potential danger which could arise out of an expansion of the war in Indo-China.

There are certain basic issues in this situation and I must state them at once so it will not be suggested, as has been suggested, that the government, notwithstanding what the Prime Minister said today, is not appreciative of the position of all the parties, of their claims and of their rights. The other day the President of the United States was very anxious to affirm to the world, as were the prime minister of Great Britain, the president of France, and several other heads of government, that their policies with regard to the Middle East were balanced ones. Ours is one that is designed to take into account the need for the most friendly possible relations with all countries. This can be done without doing violence to or taking issue with the particular claims or rights of any one of the parties. Certainly when we took exception to the way in which UNEF was withdrawn we were not taking a hostile attitude with regard to the United Arab Republic. When we sent three cruisers to supplement our evacuation plans they were not part of a design for action by this country outside of the United Nations context. Our view about international law as it applies to the strait of Tiran does not in any way involve an act of hostility against countries which may have an interest there and a different view.

● (5:30 p.m.)

There must be an acceptance, of course, of Israel's right to live in peace and security. The denial of this right has been a source of danger for a long time in the Middle East. Israel, of course, has the basic obligation itself to live without provocation to her neighbours. I am sure she will accept this.

There is a need for the elimination of terrorist incidents on the Syria-Israel border. Our position on the right of innocent passage in the gulf of Aqaba has already been mentioned. As the foreign minister I stated our position on May 23 and May 24 of this year. The Prime Minister on several occasions has reaffirmed what he had said in 1957 in confirmation of international law. In case there is

any doubt about this I simply ask hon. gentlemen to read *Hansard*, pages 602, 520, 535, 822, 1096 and 1076 where the position of the government on this vital, key issue in the present conflict may be found. I need only add that we are a signatory to the convention on territorial waters along with some 32 other countries. This convention is designed to confirm the state of international law on this matter.

Then, of course, there is the refugee problem. I propose to say something later in some detail about that because it is also one of the key issues in this matter.

Because the Middle East has such religious significance for people all over the world,—I think the foreign minister of Canada should observe that there is widespread concern about the effects of events on the holy city of Jerusalem. Hon. members know that this ancient city is a shrine to many people of different faiths. Moslems, Christians and Jews are all undoubtedly apprehensive about the safety and protection of holy sites. Because of the special importance of a city like Jerusalem to many peoples this concern will have to be taken into account in any settlement which emerges from the present conflict.

News reports, Mr. Chairman, have indicated that Iraq, Kuwait and Algeria have cut off the export of oil to Britain and the United States on the grounds of alleged British and United States military intervention on the side of Israel. The denials of the British and United States governments were clear yesterday and the fact that there has been little reference to these allegations in the press of the Soviet union clearly indicates, I believe, how specious this argument was. The cutting off of the export of oil to Britain and the United States would appear to be pursuant to a decision taken on June 5 at the Arab oil conference in Baghdad that the flow of oil would be suspended and prevented from directly or indirectly reaching countries which promote or participate in aggression against Arab countries.

Syria, for her part, has stopped the pumping of oil through pipe lines which cross her territory as well as the loading of oil in her ports. Oil continues to reach France from Algeria but the Algerian government has taken over the installations of certain British and United States companies operating from that country. So far as I know Saudi Arabia has taken no steps similar to those I have mentioned.