

*Supply—External Affairs*

Yet we are living in a technical era and we are going to need the help of technical men, scientists, engineers and so on. As part of our national defence we ought to be making abundantly certain that we have a reservoir of trained talent. But that is not being done, first because it is apparently regarded as not being important and, second, because the government does not care to support the universities. They argue that that would be in the nature of aid to education. I suppose within limits the government could be right, but from the point of view of the well-being of the community as a whole I insist that they are quite wrong. Our universities must be aided and our students must be aided so that we can produce the requisite number of technicians, engineers and even philosophers which a society such as ours requires.

That is a problem which the government will have to tackle, but there are other problems in the international sphere which are of course much more immediate. One we see confronting us is the situation in the Middle East. There is something ironical about that situation. Nations are insisting that there must be complete freedom of travel through the Suez canal. I suppose it depends upon whose ox is being gored, but the Egyptians would not permit the state of Israel to send ships through the canal and that action was rebuked by a resolution passed by the United Nations. Nothing else was done but when Nasser threatened the larger powers, or when they thought he had threatened them, then action is rapid.

But what sort of action can take place? After all, the ownership of the Suez canal is not the business of Canada. We have no shareholdings in that operation. It is only when it becomes apparent that disagreement over the canal may lead to war that we become directly interested. But the ownership per se of the Suez canal does not mean very much to us. On the other hand, the right of a maritime power such as we are to freedom of access to the Suez is most important. We want to see it maintained. But we do not think this freedom can be guaranteed best by a small group of powers guaranteeing it. As the minister said today, we believe that this should be decided by the United Nations and that control should ultimately vest with the United Nations.

The minister put in a qualifying clause, "if practicable". I am convinced it is quite practicable to do that if the will is there. I am getting rather tired of the continual by-passing of the United Nations by the big powers and by some of the smaller ones as well. The United Nations is there to be used.

[Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North).]

It should be made as far as we can into a virile international instrument and that can be done only if it is used more than it is at the present time when problems arise.

I see no reason to believe that war will break out because of what Nasser has threatened to do. The main thing to remember is that to send warships there or to have a demonstration of power would be a piece of fatuity which would only be excelled by going to war over this issue. It can be settled in other ways and I think it must be settled through the United Nations. That is also the view of my colleagues.

Some reckless move in the middle east might conceivably drive Egypt to war. Egypt would not go to war with a great power, but if Nasser wishes to distract the attention of the people from what he might consider to be an affront to Egypt he might conceivably think of a war with Israel. It has been part of our general policy throughout the last few years to preserve as far as possible a balance of armaments in that area, yet we know that that is not completely possible. Israel, a nation of 1,750,000 people, cannot afford to arm to the extent of several nations with a population of over 40 million people, but nevertheless the imbalance today is much too serious and in my judgment we have to do something to redress it.

What we ought to do, in my judgment again, is to give Israel the aid she is asking in the form of aircraft to combat any attempted aggression. Israel, I am afraid, is on her own. I see no chance of peace coming in the Middle East at one fell swoop. We shall not see it for a number of years and then only by nibbling off one outstanding problem after another. That, I think, is what General Burns has been trying to do, and I join with the minister in his tribute to General Burns on his great service to the United Nations and indirectly the credit he has brought Canada.

However, there might be another way to restore some sort of peace in the Middle East. The West may not like it, but I see no alternative, if my judgment is right that peace there in the next few years is almost impossible of attainment. We have to approach the Egyptians and the Arab peoples and offer them the capital assistance they need if they are going to improve the conditions of the people who live in their countries. We should not do it unilaterally or bilaterally or trilaterally; we should do it through the United Nations, which is the proper vehicle for this purpose. The proposition should be put to the people of the Arab countries and to Egypt that the necessary money will be