

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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A CANADIAN VIEW OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

An address by the Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Lucien Cardin, M.P. at the Kiwanis Club, Belleville, Ontario, March 27, 1956.

The close attention which is being paid by this country and by so many other countries to events that are now going on in the Near and Middle East is a further indication of a fact that has been increasingly apparent over the last few years - the fact that none of us can be indifferent to foreign affairs, just as none of us can hope to escape their consequences. The dismissal of General Glubb in Jordan, the Soviet sale of arms to Egypt, the continued unrest and violence in North Africa, the grave differences between Egypt and Israel - all these and other matters which normally might seem somewhat remote from Canada have occupied prominent places in our newspapers over the last few months. I do not suppose that we have yet got quite used to the notion of Canada as an important international power or to the idea that an event on the frontier between Israel and Egypt might very well involve us in the gravest consequences. But both these things are nonetheless true. With the progress of communications and of transport which has been phenomenal since the war, we live in a world that has been shrinking very rapidly, and our own affairs are increasingly intermingled with those of other states, almost anywhere in the world. Increasingly too, Canada has been invited to assume a growing measure of responsibility in international affairs. We have, as you know, Canadians serving in Indo-china on the International Truce Commissions; a Canadian is supervising the U.N. Truce Organization on the borders of Israel; a Canadian is Director General of the U.N. Technical Assistance Administration; Canada has been elected to serve on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; our High Commissioner in London is sitting with the representatives of Great Britain, the United States, France and Russia on the Disarmament Subcommittee of the United Nations; we are taking a vigorous part