

*Supply—External Affairs*

In my humble opinion, the cause of this war, which goes back a very long way, still exists, and the fire which has broken out so suddenly in the past few days had been smouldering for about twenty years. Even though the belligerents have laid down their arms, it does not mean that the fire has been completely extinguished but rather that it is under control, and if the United Nations which represent the world nations, fail to take the required steps, that fire could blaze up again sooner or later.

Therefore, I feel, Mr. Chairman, that we can now be proud of the work done in the last few days by the United Nations which succeeded in obtaining a cease fire, and I also think that the Canadian government, and especially our diplomatic service, deserve our congratulations. I wish to stress more particularly the fine work done by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) at the United Nations to obtain a cease fire between the United Arab Republic and Israel.

If things have worked out so well up to now in the Middle East, I wonder why the security council could not adopt the same attitude toward Viet Nam.

That area has long been in the throes of strife; it has been the victim of massacres, which not only wounded many and left many mutilated, but also made numberless victims. In spite of this, less attention seems to be given to Viet Nam than to the situation in the Middle East. Is it then less cruel to massacre yellow citizens than Jews or Arabs?

A while ago, I expressed my joy at the thought of the cease fire in the Middle East because, for several years now, as arms modernize, we note that the number of civilian deaths increases as compared with the number of deaths of military personnel.

In fact, during a recent visit to Expo, Father Dominique Pire stated that, during the first world war, the percentage of civilian casualties was 5 per cent, whereas it rose to 46 per cent during the second world war and increased further to 75 per cent during the Korean war and finally reached 85 per cent in the current conflict in Viet Nam.

That means, Mr. Chairman, that soldiers are not the only ones to be affected by war, but an ever increasing number of civilians are casualties in these massacres.

I do not want to make any comparison with what has happened in the United Arab Republic because I have noted—and I am not the only one—that the reports supplied by

[Mr. Laprise.]

press, radio or television did not overly insist on the casualties in this Middle East war. Just a few newspapermen, two or three, were killed in this war to date and it might seem as if this was only a newspaperman's war. According to reports received up to now, I can imagine that the number of victims, civilian or military, is surely considerable and that we must be very gratified to see the massacre ended, for the time being.

Tonight, Mr. Chairman, I should like to state the position of the Ralliement Cr ditiste on the war in the Middle East. Like all the other hon. members of this house and, I think, the whole Canadian people, except perhaps for a few profiteers, we deplore this war and any other elsewhere in the world. We realize that war does not solve any problems but merely satisfies passions sometimes. The present conflict in the Middle East, likewise, will not solve the problem which dates from the end of world war II.

The causes of this war must be eliminated. Those who spoke before me today pointed out that following the partition of Palestine, a great many Arabs were forced to live in what is known as refugee camps; according to what I have read, they are in fact more like concentration camps. This is, in my opinion, one of the causes of the present war in the Middle East.

I have not had the privilege of visiting these Arab and Israeli countries to see the difference existing today between this piece of land given the Israeli and known as Israel, and what it was before, and what there is in Arab countries surrounding it. I readily imagine that those who were necessarily displaced by the creation of that state, of that country, in 1947, have harboured hatred, not against a country but against men, which we can easily understand if we take into consideration the state of misery these people have been living in as a result of this partition.

I would like here to quote from an editorial published in *Le Devoir* today, June 8, signed by Jean-Marc L ger who precisely emphasizes the point I just raised, that it is not so much the Arabs themselves who are attacking the Jewish people than the Arab states which are attacking the Israeli state, because of this partition. Here is what Mr. Jean-Marc L ger wrote:

• (8:40 p.m.)

The various events which have been the immediate cause of the conflict are in fact only of secondary importance with regard to the only real problem: is peaceful coexistence possible between Israel and the Arab states? It is necessary