

and the Arab peoples, and we certainly do not want to divide ourselves completely from the Arab peoples in these matters. Therefore we have to recognize, I think, that those peoples, especially the people in Egypt as represented for better or for worse by their Government, do have a special relationship with a force which is operating in their territory. I can assure the Committee again, however, if assurance is needed, that we would not accept any principle of action at the United Nations, or participate for long in any force, if that force is in danger of being controlled and dominated by the leader of the Government of Egypt. That has already come up in the advisory committee of seven and it will come up again. I can give the Committee an assurance that that is the stand we will take, and I am quite sure we will have the support of practically all the members of the Committee in that stand and the support of the Secretary-General himself.

I have listened in previous discussions, Mr. Chairman, to a good many statements to the effect that the action of the United Kingdom and France has saved the world from Russian domination and control of the Middle East. Well, I am not going to go into that at this time, but there is another side to this question. We should also ask ourselves in considering all sides of the question whether the action that has been taken has weakened or strengthened the position of the U.S.S.R. in this area by giving the U.S.S.R. a special relationship to Egypt and to the Arab and Asian states, which has been illustrated by some of the alignments in the United Nations at this time. I do not for one minute criticize the motives of the Governments of the United Kingdom and France in intervening in Egypt at this time. I may have thought their intervention was not wise, but I do not criticize their purposes.

It has been suggested, and this is one of the questions that was asked me in the previous debate, whether by our own actions in not aligning ourselves on all occasions at the United Nations with the United Kingdom and France we had not contributed to the weakening and division of the Commonwealth and the weakening and division of the Western Coalition.

Mr. Chairman, I have just one thing to say about that. That division within the Commonwealth resulting from the British action would have occurred whether or not we had voted on every occasion with the British Delegation down there. We did not create the division. It certainly would have existed between the Asian members of the Commonwealth and the other members whether or not we had lined up with those other members, and I think we have to be very careful when we talk about the unity of the Commonwealth and co-operation within the Commonwealth -- and it is something we should not only talk about but should do what we can to bring about -- never to forget there are three Asian members of that Commonwealth. However, our efforts to bring them into closer association with the Commonwealth and to keep them there surely should not mean that even within this association we have not got a very special relationship