

*External Affairs*

fact that the government's policy does not in itself contain a final solution. I am quite ready to admit immediately that I do not know where the final solution lies.

In discussing the relationships of nations it is very easy to pick up one link of the chain of cause and effect and say it all began there, but unfortunately each link is connected with the one before, and we find as we go back that that was not where it all started; it all started somewhere farther back. I think with regard to the Middle East this is particularly the case, and that no matter how much we may dislike the actions of Mr. Nasser, no matter how much we may deplore the actions of various other powers in that area, we have to relate those actions and those attitudes to the very long and deplorable history of those people.

It is quite unreasonable, I submit, Mr. Speaker, to expect people in the position of President Nasser of Egypt to be open to sweet reason. They have a long history, and we may as well admit it, of quite callous exploitation by other peoples. We cannot avoid facing that fact; and in the present age, when they are now coming up under that upsurge of nationalism that President Sukarno of Indonesia pointed out last year, we can only expect one unreasonable attitude after another. It is in fact, sir, a case of the skies being very dark with the fluttering wings of chickens coming home to roost.

I believe, sir, that the answer to this problem can only be found in one direction.

This afternoon my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North made reference to the situation that existed some 40 years ago between the United States and Mexico. When he mentioned that I recalled at that time there had been for many years continual border incidents and constant turmoil; and they were attributable I think, sir, to the deplorably low economic standards prevailing at that time among the Mexican people.

Since that time the economy of Mexico has been built up and we have had no further incidents of that sort, because people have been too busy developing their own lives there to engage in that sort of banditry. I suggest that from now on our policy must be directed entirely toward getting at the root of the trouble in the Near East, and I think that also can be attributed entirely to the deplorable economic standards of the vast majority of those people.

It will do us not the slightest good in the world, sir, to get rid of Colonel Nasser, because the moment he goes another Nasser will rise to take his place and there will be a succession of Nassers until the economy of Egypt is built up and the people there can

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo).]

develop a living standard upon which some measure of democracy can be based; because it is one of the inexorable facts of life that democracy can be based only on at least a relative measure of economic prosperity.

I would hope the Canadian government will adopt a policy of which there should be two parts. One would be the development of a plan of economic aid to that area under the auspices of the United Nations. The other would be to exert all the influence we may have on the United States government to play their part in that economic rehabilitation.

I certainly subscribe most heartily to the criticisms made this afternoon by my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North with regard to the dealings of the United Nations with the more disreputable ruling groups in the Middle East area. I do not think that is a contribution to the stabilization of the area. I believe that the people of the developed economies of this world will have to speak very bluntly to those people, offer them our fullest co-operation and economic aid of every sort but on certain terms, that it must be devoted to raising the living and educational standards of those people.

In the meantime I can see no alternative to this uneasy process of trying to deal with unreasonable people, and I would suggest to my friends in the Conservative party that the hard truth of the matter is there are no alternatives to these uneasy negotiations than force of arms; and we should face that fact. If that is the alternative we want to adopt; if we must proceed with an armed attack upon Mr. Nasser and the elements in the Middle East which have been disturbing the peace, then let us do so openly and frankly.

I do not think anyone in this house actually wants to do that. I believe everyone in this house realizes that is an alternative we should accept only if it is forced upon us, and in the meantime we shall have to endure what the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra referred to as humiliation. I personally believe that we in Canada should surely now be of sufficient maturity not to indulge in that sort of emotional reaction to an insult or rebuff from another country. I think we should be prepared to say, "Okay, rebuff us if you like and insult us if you will, but we are not going to be foolish enough to involve the world in war because our feelings have been hurt".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker—