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DEBATE ON WORLD CRISIS

A special session of Parliament opened November 26 at Ottawa to enable the Members to consider the Government's request, outlined in the Speech From The Throne, that funds provided for defence expenditures be used to finance Canada's participation in the United Nations Emergency Force for the Middle East and that the provision of relief be authorized for the victims of the recent tragic events in Hungary.

Opening the debate on the Government's position in the light of the events in the two troubled areas, the Hon. W. Earl Rowe, Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament and Acting Leader of the Opposition, laid four charges against the Government in a motion of non-confidence. It had, he said:

"1. followed a course of gratuitous condemnation of the action of the United Kingdom which was designed to prevent a major war in the Suez area;

2. meekly followed the unrealistic policies of the United States of America and thereby encouraged a truculent and defiant attitude on the part of the Egyptian dictator;

3. placed Canada in the humiliating position of accepting dictation from President Nasser as to the composition of Canada's contribution to the United Nations Emergency Force;

4. failed to take swift and adequate action to extend refuge to the patriots of Hungary and other lands under the cruel Russian yoke."

Dealing with Mr. Rowe's first point, Prime Minister St. Laurent said there had been no "gratuitous condemnation of the action of the United Kingdom". He pointed out that Canada had abstained from the first resolution introduced in the emergency session of the General Assembly of the United Nations because it was an insufficient resolution, calling for a cease-fire and nothing more. He said that Canada had expressed regret "that certain members of the United Nations had felt it necessary to take the law into their own hands when the matter was before the Security Council". The Prime Minister added that there was "regret that what took place in the Middle East was used as a screen to obscure the horrible actions, the horrible international crimes, that were being committed in mid-Europe at the same time", and that events in the Middle East made it more difficult to marshal world opinion in unanimous and vigorous condemnation of what was taking place in Hungary at that very minute.

The Prime Minister recalled to the Members that the Israelis, the French, and the British had with other nations signed the charter of the United Nations and thereby undertaken to use peaceful means to settle possible disputes and not to resort to the use of force, and said he had been "scandalized more than once by the attitude of the larger powers, the big

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