

*The Premier of France*

us to allow the situation to deteriorate again as it did in the past eight years when, under the cover of an armistice, the disorders were perpetuated and a state of masked warfare was finally established while, at the same time, the resolutions passed by the United Nations were constantly being violated.

We must attack the basic causes of the tensions in the Middle East. I should like to enumerate for you some of those which seem to me to be the principal ones. Some of them are "geographic" and others are purely "political".

The first of the "geographic" causes is the frontiers of Israel and, in fact, the existence of the state of Israel itself. The conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and her Arab neighbours, fixing her frontiers and guaranteeing the integrity of her territory, is an absolute necessity. I am very happy that the representatives of the great countries expressed their determination in the general assembly of the United Nations that this treaty will be interposed as soon as possible. I am happy that the big nations have declared their insistence that free passage of ships in the international waters of the gulf of Aqaba shall be respected.

The Suez canal is also one of the "geographic" causes of tension. Its sabotage by Egypt without any military motive to justify it, and the blackmail exercised since then over the pace of clearing and opening the canal, shows the little confidence merited by the government of Egypt. As was stipulated before the security council, the Suez canal must be "withdrawn from the political policies of every country" and, in particular, from that of Egypt. The economic equilibrium of Europe and the countries of southeast Asia cannot depend solely on the good will of a commonplace Egyptian dictator.

Still more vital are the causes which I have called "political", and it is upon the attitude which will be taken about them that will depend the definite settlement of other problems. I am speaking of the pan-Arab manoeuvres of Egypt and the Soviet infiltration of the Middle East.

The pan-Arab dreams of Colonel Nasser are defined with brutal clarity in his book, "The Philosophy of Revolution". He himself has declared his determination to organize around a "hero"—that is the way in which he speaks of himself—a united Arab world "from the Atlantic to the Persian gulf". In order to achieve it, he plans to utilize, as a means of pressure on the west, the oil of the Middle East and the geographic position of his own country—that is to say, the Suez canal. We now know that they were not idle threats.

To denounce pan-Arabism does not signify an attack on the Arab world. Pan-Arabism is not the expression of a people's national feeling. It is, as pan-Germanism and pan-Slavism have been in the past, a myth in whose name a people's independence is attacked.

It is the duty of the free nations to oppose a united front to the subversive actions of pan-Arabism; to see that provocation does not pay, and that there can be no transactions whatsoever which do not respect international obligations. Such an attitude is even more necessary since pan-Arabism is the best vehicle for communist infiltration. Faithful to Lenin's directives, the Soviet leaders are systematically supporting ultra-nationalism. Cairo and Damascus, the sources of pan-Arabism, have thus become the strongest bridgeheads of the U.S.S.R.

From this point of view the declaration of President Eisenhower assumes great importance. The Soviet union has been, in the past, attentive to such warnings. I shall add that any split in the united front of the free nations, in the Middle East, will be exploited by the Soviet union. It is therefore our duty to put into effect in this part of the world a concerted, long-range policy.

That is what I have expressed to the Canadian government, as well as to the President of the United States, and I believe—let me say I am sure—that my visits will have favoured the first steps.

*(Translation):*

The problems of which I have been speaking to you have been, as you may imagine, the object of thorough discussions with the Prime Minister of Canada. I was pleased to note the large area of agreement between us. I am certain that in these next weeks France and Canada will find themselves side by side in the international meetings, in common defence of the same causes and in seeking solutions in harmony with law and justice.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, members of the houses of parliament, in a few hours my friend Mr. Pineau, our assistants and myself will be leaving your magnificent country. The memory of the hours we have spent in it, the memory of the simplicity and fraternal warmth of your welcome, will remain with us. I shall take testimony of it to the French people. I shall tell them that, in dark days and fair, they can rely on the friendship and the support of this great people in full expansion.

To you, also, I should like to say that you may rely on the French people and on the youth of France. By their labour they have overcome the destruction of the war, they