

ment by France of its position in NATO so far as an integrated military organization is concerned. But France still remains a member of the Organization, withdrawing from the political side of NATO. In the future, I hope that France may come back even into the military side of NATO. To be a member of a defence organization like NATO and to take part in collective defence but to say that you will not organize for collective defence until the emergency occurs flies in the face of all history, especially modern history. So I hope that perhaps even in that respect there may be developments which will strengthen NATO in the years ahead.

### **Reported U.A.R.-Israel Conflict**

*On November 29, in reply to a request that he say "something regarding the ominous situation in the Middle East and the report today that various areas in the Middle East are on the brink of an explosion the like of which has not been seen since 1956", Mr. Pearson said:*

I can only express the hope that the report. . . that we are on the brink of an explosion in that area involving greater danger than that of 1956 will turn out to be greatly exaggerated. It is true that a dangerous situation has developed as a result of Israel's reaction against what it considered to be serious border provocation. This is the matter which was dealt with by the United Nations Security Council when a resolution was passed criticizing Israel's reaction.

It is also true that there was a report about an air engagement that took place this morning. According to the information so far available, and naturally we are making further inquiries, a small number of Israel and United Arab Republic aircraft were engaged in an action near the mid-point between the Israel and Arab borders. Early reports indicate that two U.A.R. aircraft were shot down in this encounter.

As Hon. Members are aware, the United Nations has a peace-keeping force stationed in this area. I think we can take some satisfaction from the knowledge that this force is there. We expect to have more precise information shortly, and when that information arrives I will report to the House at once.

### **Rhodesia—Support of Mandatory Sanctions**

*A little later the same day, asked whether, in view of the visit to Washington and Ottawa by Sir Saville Garner, British Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, he could inform the House if he had "had consultation with our representative in London serving as chairman of the Sanctions Committee on*