

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

every possible manner and I can assure the House that similar assistance would continue to be extended in future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Speaker: I have received the following message from the President:

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the address I deliver to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 16th March, 1957."

MOTION RE: INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto be taken into consideration."

In the course of the last few days, when we were discussing the President's Address, many references were made to foreign affairs and, I also, in the course of my remarks, replied to many questions put. In a sense, therefore, we have partly covered the ground of international affairs in that previous debate.

It is now, I think, about four months since we had a debate on international affairs in this House. It was at the end of November last, I believe, when we had that debate, that we were confronted by a very serious situation which had arisen in the middle-eastern region, in Egypt, because of a military invasion of Egypt. Also, in central Europe a serious situation had been created in Hungary. On that occasion, in November,

I ventured to deal with these two matters. Many things have happened during these four months and considerable progress has been made in some matters, but I do not think I would be justified in saying that the general atmosphere in the world can be viewed with any optimism, indeed there are many factors in it which are very disturbing.

So far as the situation in Egypt, in the Suez Canal and round about is concerned, we have had the privilege of being in consultations with the Egyptian Government on the one side, and in the United Nations with others intimately connected with these matters, and we have tried to serve, in so far as we could, the cause of peaceful settlement, a settlement which would not only guard the rights of nations or sovereignty of nations concerned, but also be fair to the interests of the international community.

I am not in a position to say anything very much about what is happening in Egypt, now except that, I think, there are indications that a satisfactory solution may be arrived at in regard to the Suez Canal, the working or the functioning of the Suez Canal. Probably, in the course of a few days, a few weeks or a week or two, the Canal will be open to traffic. Now, the House will remember that much of the trouble of the last five or six months arose in connection with the Suez Canal and, therefore, if it is settled satisfactorily as to how it should work to the advantage of the international community and safeguarding the sovereign rights of Egypt, that will be a great gain.

I do not say that that will solve the problems of the Middle East. But, certainly, that will go a considerable way in easing tensions there. There are difficulties, as the House knows, in regard to Gaza in regard to the Gulf of Aquaba and, generally, in regard to conditions in