

seems to me, from our point of view, are two; first, that it's just an unsolved problem which takes the concentration of the people on the two sides who are entirely concentrated on the conflict against each other and are therefore more concerned with that than they are with what we think is the broader problem threatening the security of the whole area. There is a possibility of an actual outbreak of war there which carries dangers of a wider war. And thirdly, there is the fact that the existence of the conflict in its present form makes it almost impossible for us to establish reasonable and tolerable relations with many of the Arab states.

We are, in a sense, associated with Israel in their minds and in actuality, in a way in which we have two strikes on us in anything we want to try to do diplomatically, militarily, or however, with the Arab states.

So that, we have felt that we had a national interest in pushing this problem toward some kind of settlement. And the record of the past 15 years on this is a record of small success and a lot of frustration and failure. And you come up with the conclusion, I think, that this is an insoluble problem for the present; maybe for this generation; we don't know. But, the conflict is there, and I think what we are devoting ourselves to doing now are two things; first, trying to keep it from breaking out. And this may require something more definite in the way of commitments to the preservation of the status quo. And we are on record now as having given - the President did make a statement; President Kennedy last May which went quite a way in warning both sides that if there were aggression of any kind that we would be in the picture to