

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 56/34

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, was interviewed by Mr. Charles Lynch, CBC United Nations correspondent, in a television programme shown in Canada on November 25. Excerpts from the telecast follow:

....Mr. Lester Pearson, Canada's Minister of External Affairs, was the man who first proposed the United Nations Emergency Force. The General Assembly took up the item at once. It has been described as the action that saved the peace. Perhaps it is too early to say that, but at any rate the world is not at war. The United Nations Emergency Force has set things humming-hopeful things. The first units already are at their post in the Suez Canal Zone. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, has been to Cairo and back. The Commander of the Force, Major General E.L.M. Burns, has been here for consultations and has returned to take up his somewhat weird and wonderful command. For her size, Canada's role in all this has been remarkable. She proposed the Force. She is sending troops. She sits on the advisory committee for the Force. The Commander of the Force is a Canadian. Our guest has been a central figure in much that has happened, Canada's External Affairs Minister, Mr. Lester Pearson. Mr. Pearson, welcome to our programme. Could you tell us, Sir, has the United Nations Emergency Force worked out as you hoped it would when you first suggested it?

Mr. Pearson: It was less than three weeks ago when the resolution was introduced setting up this Force. During that very short time far more has been accomplished than any of us could have reasonably expected, although there are a great many difficulties to overcome yet. But what has been done I think has been really quite amazing as you have indicated yourself. The Forces from six or seven countries, including Canada, are on the spot now. Offers have been received from another nineteen or twenty which have not been accepted in the sense that they have been incorporated in the force, largely because work of preparation for