

He also discussed with me the question of composition on the next day, Wednesday. Then later we had a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the matter and I have already read from the minutes of that meeting. Following that the Secretary-General flew to Cairo. He left New York in the hope that these difficulties would all be cleared up before he had returned. As we were having diplomatic discussions about them and as it seemed that these discussions might end in a satisfactory way, we did our best, I quite admit, to discourage any premature publicity about difficulties which might be settled and concerning which, if the publicity were inaccurate, we would have even greater trouble in clearing up. Therefore on Thursday, November 15, the Prime Minister said at Toronto:

Units of Canadian contribution to the UN force are ready and the order in council placing them on active service under UN command will be passed and Parliament summoned as soon as we can ascertain from General Burns what elements he needs and cannot get from other countries.

During that week-end when General Burns had reached New York and the Secretary-General was in Cairo I was in touch with the Secretary-General by telephone and cable through our Embassy. I stated to him that I had had word about his discussions with the Egyptians; that while I appreciated the difficulties which had arisen and while naturally we wanted to help the Secretary-General already so overburdened with problems, in any way possible, nevertheless we could not accept the principle that any one government could determine what contribution or whether any contribution would be made by a member state in connection with the United Nations force. I am glad to say that the Secretary-General has taken the same position.

Then we discussed the difficulty on the Secretary-General's return. I know my hon. friends want to have all the facts in connection with this matter. We have had wild rumours and exaggerations which have appeared in the press about Nasser's farce, as the Acting Leader of the Opposition called it yesterday.

As a result of these discussions the Secretary-General had sent a communication to me from Cairo which I shall put on the record:

The question of when and where ground troops shall be used--

That is Canadian ground troops.

--can best be considered when the UNEF can assess its needs at the armistice lines. The present situation seems to be one where it is not a lack of troops for the immediate task but of possibilities to bring them over and maintain their lines of communications.

That was a message from the Secretary-General, not from the Egyptian government. He also emphasized that in sending it neither he nor anyone else was laying down conditions for