

In the continuing consultations which, in my view, will be considerably facilitated in case the General Assembly would decide immediately on the establishment of a United Nations Command, I would try to determine from which countries the necessary troops might be drawn without delay, as well as from which countries recruitment may be possible for a somewhat later stage. For both stages I would endeavour to develop a plan where, as a matter of principle, troops should not be drawn from countries which are permanent members of the Security Council.

The next day, November 4, the General Assembly acted on the Secretary-General's report by accepting a resolution sponsored by Canada, Colombia and Norway which established a United Nations Command, appointed General Burns as Chief of Command on an emergency basis, and authorized him to recruit as proposed by the Secretary-General. This resolution was also adopted by 57 votes to none, with 19 abstentions, including France, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet bloc.

In speaking briefly on the resolution, Mr. Pearson informed the Assembly that the Prime Minister had announced, a few hours before, "that the Canadian Government was ready to recommend Canadian participation in such a United Nations force as is visualized in this draft resolution if that force is to be established and if it is thought that Canada could play a useful rôle in it".

Three approaches have been mentioned. Of these the Soviet initiative had not proved acceptable. The remaining two approaches—the cease-fire and the emergency force—were regarded as complementary by the majority of delegations, and both were followed up at the next meeting of the Assembly, on November 7.

The Assembly by then had before it the "second and final" report of the Secretary-General on the plan for an Emergency International Force. After reviewing previous discussions and the action taken and examining possible forms the Force might take, the report went on:

6. In its resolution on the United Nations Command, the General Assembly authorized the Chief of Command, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to recruit officers from the Truce Supervision Organization, or directly from various Member States other than the permanent members of the Security Council. This recruitment procedure affords an important indication of the character of the Force to be set up. On the one hand, the independence of the Chief of Command in recruiting officers is recognized. On the other hand, the principle is established that the Force should be recruited from Member States other than the permanent members of the Security Council. The first of these elements in the new approach has an important bearing on the interpretation of the status of the Chief of Command. The second point has an equally important bearing on the character of the whole Command. It may in this context be observed that the Anglo-French proposal, to which I have already referred, may imply that the question of the composition of the staff and contingents should be subject to agreement by the parties involved, which it would be difficult to reconcile with the development of the international Force along the course already being followed by the General Assembly.

7. The resolution in which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to submit a plan for the international Force gives further guidance. Thus, it is said that the Force should be set up on an "emergency" basis. The situation envisaged is more clearly defined in the terms of reference of the Force which are "to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in accordance with all the terms" of the General Assembly resolution of 2 November 1956.

8. A closer analysis of the concept of the United Nations Force, based on what the General Assembly has stated in its resolution on the matter, indicates that the Assembly intends that the Force should be of a temporary nature, the length of its assignment being determined by the needs arising out of the present conflict. It is further clear that the General Assembly, in its resolution of 5 November 1956, by the