

for the speed and efficiency with which they prepared themselves for overseas service and for their exemplary conduct during these weeks of waiting in Halifax, and we all regret that changes in United Nations plans have not made it possible for the battalion to proceed overseas as originally planned.

By the end of the year offers of contributions had been accepted from nine countries: Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, India, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, and Yugoslavia. The contributions made by the countries other than Canada consisted almost entirely of infantry units. On the other hand Canada provided as requested, signals, transport, and infantry workshop units, together with a base unit including engineers, medical, dental, ordnance, legal and clerical personnel. The total number of Canadian army personnel in Egypt, at the staging-base near Naples, or *en route* at the end of December, was slightly under 800. In addition the Canadian Government had, in response to the Secretary-General's request for transport aircraft for UNEF, provided a squadron of twelve C-119 transport aircraft, later reduced as the need diminished to seven, with 350 personnel at the end of the year. At the same date the total strength of UNEF in Egypt was approximately 4,000.

It has earlier been mentioned that the financing of UNEF was a question remaining to be settled. This matter has already been discussed at some length in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General proposed that expenses be borne by member states according to the 1957 scale for the apportionment of general expenses of the United Nations. Various alternative plans were put forward. The Soviet Union, with support from other members of the Soviet bloc, insisted that expenses be borne by the "aggressor countries". India and eighteen other Asian and Arab countries suggested that a nine-member group be appointed to discuss the question further. Twenty Latin American countries proposed that the UN scale be followed up to a maximum of \$5,000,000 with subsequent amounts derived from voluntary contributions. The United States proposed that the 1957 scale be followed up to a maximum of \$10,000,000.

On December 20 the Fifth Committee adopted a recommendation that the expenses of UNEF be borne by the United Nations. Up to \$10,000,000 of the cost would be apportioned among member states in accordance with the scale of assessment for the regular budget for 1957. The question of apportioning expenses beyond \$10,000,000 was to be examined by a special committee consisting of representatives from Canada, Chile, El Salvador, India, Liberia, Sweden, United States, and the U.S.S.R. The draft resolution containing this recommendation thus combined the United States proposal with a modification of the Indian one. It was adopted by 57 in favour, 8 against, and 9 abstentions.

Clearance of the Suez Canal had been accepted by the General Assembly as an urgent necessity, and was, of course, of particular concern to the many countries whose economies were affected by its closing. As indicated in his report of November 20 on arrangements for clearing the Canal, the Secretary-General, immediately after the adoption of the resolution of November 2, had begun to explore the technical possibilities of engaging the services of private Dutch and Danish firms to assist in the clearing operation. A retired United States Army engineer with broad experience in salvage and reconstruction work, Lieutenant-General Raymond A. Wheeler, was named chief technical adviser to the Secretary-General on the clearance undertaking. Surveying of the sunken obstructions, which included approximately fifty ships and two bridges, began