

Committee on UNEF through the Secretary-General. There it would be discussed by the Committee which was set up for that purpose by the Assembly, and if necessary and desirable the whole matter could then be referred to the full Assembly for decision. And therefore any question of whether UNEF should be withdrawn would become a matter for discussion with and decision by the United Nations. This is this Government's understanding of the procedure which should be followed.

Having said that, however, I should add that if Egypt refused to accept the United Nations view that UNEF's task was still unfinished, and that UNEF should not be withdrawn, Egypt would, in our view, be nullifying its acceptance of the Assembly's basic resolution establishing the Force and laying down its function.

Nevertheless, the Assembly does not have any authority under the Charter of the United Nations to create binding legal obligations on member states, and Egypt, therefore, could not, in the last resort, be compelled by the United Nations Assembly to continue to accept any resolution or to co-operate in carrying it out. The Assembly cannot force its view on any state although in certain contingencies the Security Council can attempt to do that.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian position on this matter has already been stated to the General Assembly, to the Advisory Committee, on more than one occasion and was given to the House on November 27. In case there is any doubt as to what our position is on this matter I will have another opportunity to state it to the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee either late tonight or tomorrow morning before the Secretary-General leaves for Egypt. These statements which we have already made of our general position should make clear that this is the stand we are taking and will take in respect of the reinforcements from Canada to UNEF which have recently gone forward. Although I know I am taking up a great deal of the time of the House perhaps I should go into the question of this request for reinforcements which was made some weeks ago, because it is a matter of interest to the House.

Reinforcements for UNEF

The first mention of a reconnaissance squadron for UNEF was on December 4 when our Ambassador in Cairo reported that General Burns was sending a message to the Secretary-General making proposals relating to the Canadian contribution to UNEF. We were told then only that General Burns would find it desirable to have as a combined unit an additional armoured reconnaissance unit or squadron of company size of about 200 men.

Shortly afterwards our Permanent Mission in New York reported that a representative of the Secretary-General had informed them that General Burns had urged that a request for a reconnaissance unit from Canada be pursued, that the reconnaissance