

should be given further study by a seven-member advisory committee established by the Assembly to deal with all questions relating to the operation of the force. Canada was a member of this advisory committee.

The clearance of the Suez Canal, made necessary by the sinking of ships and the destruction of bridges during the hostilities, was another urgent problem which the United Nations had to consider. While the Secretary-General was in Cairo from November 9-15 to discuss arrangements for the arrival in Egypt of UNEF, the Egyptian Government asked for United Nations assistance in clearing the Canal. This and the related Middle Eastern problems were discussed by the Assembly in a resumed debate on November 23-24. At that time the Assembly considered three further reports from the Secretary-General concerning the organization and functioning of UNEF and the clearance of the Canal, and discussed the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Egyptian territory. Two resolutions were adopted by the Assembly on November 24. The first, reiterating the request for withdrawal, was passed by a vote of 63 in favour, 5 against, with 10 abstentions (including Canada). The second, approving the Secretary-General's report on basic points for the presence and functioning of UNEF in Egypt and on arrangements for clearing the Suez Canal was then adopted by 65 votes in favour, 0 against, with 9 abstentions. Canada supported this second resolution. On February 1 the House of Commons voted to provide a loan of \$1 million for the interim financing of clearance operations. A short time earlier, in accordance with the authority given by Parliament on November 29, 1956, Canada had contributed \$315,000<sup>1</sup> to the United Nations as Canada's share of defraying expenses in connection with the operations of UNEF.

Twenty-five member states offered to contribute to UNEF. When the eleventh session adjourned on March 8, offers of contingents had been accepted from ten countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, India, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia, making the total strength of UNEF about 6,000. The contributions of countries other than Canada were made up almost entirely of infantry units. The Canadian contingent, in response to requests which originated with the Commander, consisted of armoured reconnaissance, 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 serving with the Force was about 1,000. In addition, the Canadian Government provided a composite air squadron which included aircraft for communication and observation and for air transport. With this unit included, about 250 RCAF personnel were integrated in the Force.

The withdrawal of United Kingdom and French forces from Egypt was completed by December 22. Although certain elements of Israel's armed forces had withdrawn behind the armistice demarcation line, others remained. Pressure in the Assembly for complete withdrawal was intensified. This found expression in a new resolution on withdrawal which was adopted by the General Assembly after a resumed debate on January 19. A number of speakers, including the Canadian Representative, referred to the relationship between withdrawal and the steps which should be taken immediately

<sup>1</sup>This amount is 3.15 per cent (which is Canada's scale of assessment for membership in the United Nations) of the \$10 million requested of all its members by the United Nations.