

times in New York when things were deteriorating pretty rapidly and no one knew what was going to happen on the morrow. It seemed at that time, and it was a general opinion, that one way out of this difficulty would be to set up -- I am talking about the difficulty of the fighting in the Suez and the possibility of that conflict spreading and the danger of intervention from outside in a way which might have brought about the awful horror of World War III -- it seemed then that one way to avoid it was to interpose some kind of United Nations policy agency between the conflicting forces. That was done, as you know, but it was done only because enough members of the United Nations were willing to vote certain functions and authority for the United Nations Emergency Force, and were willing, by voluntary action, to make it effective; because those governments which were particularly concerned with the operation of the Force, especially governments in whose territory it was operating, were willing to allow it to function there and operate there. This is by way of explaining the limits under which such a force must work.

But also, this was a very encouraging experiment for the future. At least I hope it will be. It is still too soon to say whether it is going to work, but we did show at the time, I think, that in an emergency, in a crisis, the United Nations can act quickly and effectively and improvise a police force which could be of very great value for limited purposes. It cannot fight its way into any country. It cannot begin to operate even as a police force against a great power, but it can and did intervene between two parties to a conflict and it has been, up to the present, effective in securing and supervising a cease-fire. I am told that in its short life, and this Force has only had a life of a very few months, it has built up an organization, an esprit de corps, a morale, which would do credit to any national expeditionary force. If that is true, and I think it is true, a good deal of credit goes to the Canadian Commander of the Force. I learned the other day about some of the difficulties and some of the inspiration General Burns felt at being commander of the first international force of this kind in history; and how well these national contingents were working together and how they were building up, under the blue flag of the United Nations, an international morale, an esprit de corps; how the various national elements were vying with each other in doing their jobs efficiently. One of the national contingents -- they must have been picked men and they must have been sent there under implicit instructions to win friends and influence people -- were not only extremely well-disciplined and kept their camps in fine condition, but they were particularly courteous and friendly to everybody. They did not know the language of the country, they did not know French or English but they knew enough to smile at everybody whom they met and they knew enough to make a good impression on everybody.

We have, I think, started something in this United Nations Emergency Force which, if it can be made to work, may