

External Affairs) at both the special emergency session of the General Assembly in August and at the thirteenth session in September. Attention was drawn to the necessity of considering not only UNEF experience but also that derived from such United Nations operations as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine, the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon and the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan. This need was recognized by the Secretary-General in his report of the study made of UNEF experience. In it he observed that "in considering general standby arrangements of the kind envisaged in this report, a course should be followed which would afford a considerable degree of flexibility in approaching the varying needs that may arise".

When the Secretary-General's Report was received by delegations to the thirteenth session, it was clear that many of them considered the implications of some of the recommendations were so far reaching that discussion of his report at that session would be undesirable. Some delegations were flatly opposed to a debate on the matter. In the circumstances, therefore, the Secretary-General, in introducing his Report to the Special Political Committee concluded: "The political issues involved have to be resolved if and when the United Nations face a concrete situation in which the members wish to decide on a field operation by the United Nations of the kind considered here. That would also be the best time for a consideration of the principles that should apply in a particular case. In these circumstances I feel no need for the General Assembly to take any action at the present time".

The General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report but made no observations on the section dealing with proposals for a standby force.

### **The Middle East**

For the past decade, the Middle Eastern problem with which the United Nations has been chiefly concerned has been that of Arab-Israeli relations. In 1958, by contrast, the focus of international attention shifted for the first time to inter-Arab issues, as a result of the crisis which developed with respect to Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq during the middle of the year. New methods and new types of approach were devised by the United Nations to meet the situation, and by the end of 1958, in large measure as a result of the efforts of the Arab states themselves, the immediate inter-Arab problems had been solved. Certain tensions in the Arab world remained unresolved however, and no specific progress was made during the year towards a general Arab-Israeli settlement. United Nations efforts were nevertheless generally successful in preventing the various Arab-Israeli border incidents which occurred from developing into a dangerous cycle of increasing tension, such as that which preceded the 1956 crisis.

### **The Lebanese and Jordanian Complaints**

The involvement of the United Nations in the major Middle East dispute of the year began on May 22, when the Government of Lebanon requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider its complaint "in respect of a situation arising from the intervention of the United Arab Republic (U.A.R.) in the internal affairs of Lebanon, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security." It was stated that this intervention included the infiltration of armed