

In view of the relative quiet which now prevails in that area some member states might be of the opinion that the time has arrived to curtail UNEF's operations. I think we should bear in mind, however, that the reduction of frontier incidents between the United Arab Republic and Israel is due in large measure to the presence of the force. It would therefore be unfortunate if the contribution of UNEF to more stable conditions in the area should now be jeopardized by a premature limitation of its operations.

All member states have an equal interest in ensuring the continuing effectiveness of the Force. We support the efforts of the Secretary-General to consolidate its financial position. We hope these efforts will receive a degree of co-operation commensurate with the political significance of the UNEF operation and the collective responsibility of all members to maintain international peace and security.

### Laos

Finally, Mr. President - I turn to conditions in the Far East. May I say that in our view a notable effort was made at the Geneva Conference in 1954 to establish equilibrium in Indochina. It was an effort at peace-making fully compatible with the United Nations Charter. The principles underlying the Geneva Agreements, in particular the principle of non-alignment, should be respected in order to lessen the tension existing in that troubled area.

The United Nations for its part has an important role to perform, not -- as has been charged -- in upsetting the regime established at Geneva, but in supplementing it with arrangements essential for the long-term stability of the area.

It seems to us that the United Nations must look ahead to this long-term future. True, we have in Laos at present a sub-committee set up by the Security Council and we must await its report upon the facts of the situation there. However, the very presence of this United Nations body seems already to be having a pacifying effect.

There exist in that part of the world a number of newly-established states which are finding their feet as nations in conditions of international tension. These new nations have many needs but by far the greatest are peace and other conditions for material development. We believe that the United Nations has a proper and legitimate interest and concern in this area in which a number of its members are located, including Laos.

Admittedly the efforts of the United Nations to help preserve peace may be seriously hampered by the attitude towards the organization of certain non-member states directly interested in the problem, but we must hope that such states will as time goes on come to recognize the useful contribution the United Nations can make.