

deployment, and in particular the allocation of functions between the two countries. In these discussions we have sought to consider in a constructive manner proposals put forward by the Secretary-General, while having in mind the need to ensure that Canada will be able to provide a useful and effective contribution to the operation of the force. At the moment, the Government is giving active consideration to a proposal from the Secretary-General that Canada provide an air unit. A request has been made to Poland to provide a field-hospital unit. In addition, the Secretary-General has made suggestions regarding the division of responsibilities between Canada and Poland with respect to the remaining logistic functions. The discussions have been complex and time-consuming, but I am hopeful that we may be in a position to announce shortly the details of the composition of the remainder of the Canadian contingent.

While these negotiations continue, the advance party of the Canadian signals unit arrived in Cairo on November 10. The deployment of the unit should be completed shortly and will number over 400 persons. This unit is being dispatched according to the schedule determined by the Secretary-General. He wanted an advance party of the unit on the ground as soon as possible because of the urgent requirements for an effective communications system within UNEF.

Another point demonstrated by the history of UNEF from 1956 to 1967 is that a peacekeeping force of this kind should be recognized by all parties as a temporary necessity, to help avoid a renewal of fighting while the parties to the conflict take up the fundamental problem that has led them to fight each other in the first place. It is precisely because the parties involved made no progress toward a peaceful settlement in the ten years following 1956 that ultimately UNEF had to depart without any other prospect than renewed warfare. With this in mind, I stressed on October 22 that, while we warmly welcomed the call for a cease-fire, it was vitally important, in our view, that the cease-fire should lead quickly to negotiations on the basic problems of the Middle East.

There is now a renewed opportunity for the parties involved to employ the respite that UNEF provides to tackle their basic differences. The principles of a just and lasting settlement have been set out since 1967 in Security Council Resolution 242, but until now no progress has been made in implementing that resolution and no negotiations based on its principles have taken place. Resolution 338 of October 22, 1973, which is the basis for the present cease-fire, also deals with the problem of a peaceful settlement. It calls for an immediate beginning to the implementation of Resolution 242 in all its parts and for the beginning of negotiation between the parties under appropriate auspices.