

deeply hope that the Members of this Assembly share our view that UNEF should continue to have the widest support of the United Nations as long as it appears to be making a useful contribution to peace in the area.

We have the impression that these views are widely shared in this Assembly. If this is so, it follows that the Assembly should give careful consideration to the consequences of continuing the Force in being. There is no doubt that the financial consequences are of concern to all of us here. The Secretary-General has described them in detail in Part III of his report. This shows that to maintain a force of 6,000 United Nations soldiers, performing necessary duties in the service of peace in the Middle East, involves a considerable expenditure. I have no desire to underestimate the actual cost, but I ask Members and I ask this very, very seriously to relate those financial costs to the political benefits which UNEF has helped to achieve, and to the possible dangers which UNEF has helped to avert. How do we measure the value of decreased tension between nations, the diminishing of fear and anxiety among peoples, and the strengthening of hope for further progress towards peace? It is surely these intangible factors which must be placed in the balance sheet--and which should be given due weight--when we look at the figures for the costs of UNEF.

To meet those costs, it seems to me inevitable that the Assembly should accept and firmly support the principle of common assessment, based on the regular scale of assessments for United Nations Members. The Secretary-General has placed the issue squarely before us in paragraph 106 of his report. He has stressed the grave risks inherent in an inadequate and insecure basis for financing UNEF. Clearly, to base the operations of the Force on a series of appeals for voluntary contributions would be quite inadequate and wholly unworthy of this Organization and the cause which it is serving. The validity of this conclusion has been demonstrated beyond doubt, and I say this without detracting from my previous expression of gratitude for the voluntary contributions and special assistance which some Members have so generously provided. I have no hesitation in supporting the assertion in the Secretary-General's report that:

"It is essential that this vital United Nations undertaking be assured of the same degree of certainty of financial support as afforded to other United Nations activities which have as their purpose the maintenance of security and peace." (A/3694, para. 106).

The Canadian view, which has been consistently expressed during the Assembly debates on this subject, is that the financing of UNEF and similar United Nations endeavours can be assured only if the principle of assessment, of collective sharing in the collective effort of peace, is followed.