

in the face of a dangerous situation which had arisen in the Middle East. For reasons with which we are all familiar, it was—and I emphasize this—it was the Assembly, in which all member governments are represented, which bore the brunt of that crisis, that situation which had the gravest implications for the peace of the area and, indeed, of the whole world. Our meeting at this time, however, is not to dwell upon the events of the past but to consider the consequences of one of the important steps which the Assembly took last year, namely, the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force. That was a decision in which all of us participated.

Since the dark days of November 1956, a great deal has been said and written about the role of UNEF in the Middle East. Members of this Assembly may not then have been wholly in agreement on the principles which should govern the presence and functioning of that Force. But what we are now agreed on, I believe, is that UNEF has made a valuable contribution to the maintenance of quiet and order in the area of its deployment. This, in turn, has done much to allay the anxiety, the fear and the frustration which had produced international tension there. In the introduction to his last annual report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has made thoughtful and persuasive comment on the ways in which the Force has continued to serve the cause of peace in the Middle East, and he points out that it has played a pioneering role which has been accompanied by many difficulties.

In the admirable report (A/369), dated 9 October 1957, which the Secretary-General has made, he discusses in detail the development of UNEF. I could not possibly improve on what the report states about organizational and operational matters and about the role and functioning of the Force. I wish only to add my voice to the other expressions of warm appreciation which we have heard from time to time about the Secretary-General and his staff—those men and women who have worked so tirelessly and effectively for the success of the UNEF experiment. It is, of course, a source of satisfaction to Canada that the Commanding Officer of the Force has been Major General Burns—a Canadian.

At the same time, I pay equally warm tribute to those governments which, in one way or another, have made a contribution to this work of practical peace-making. I have in mind the participating governments which, with Canada, have provided contingents to UNEF; the governments which, without charge, have furnished services, facilities and supplies; the governments which have made voluntary contributions and special assistance available in order to meet the problems of financing the Force; and also those governments which offered contingents in the early days of UNEF when the broad response did much to encourage those whose responsibility it was to organize the Force. All those governments warrant congratulations for their support of the United Nations at that time of great trial—a time which perhaps provided a decisive test of the vitality of this Organization. And this rallying round of member states, representing various shades of opinion in this Assembly, is inspiring evidence that the United Nations ideal can be given practical expression.

For, in a sense, the creation of the UNEF has been a practical application of the foremost among the purposes and principles enunciated in Article I of our Charter. In establishing UNEF, the United Nations took an effective and collective step towards the prevention and removal of a threat to peace. The collectivity of this action is symbolized in the composition of the Force itself and in the offers and contributions made by other governments to assist in bringing UNEF into being.

In this context, it is appropriate to mention the helpful attitude which the Government of Egypt has adopted toward the presence and functioning of UNEF in territory under Egyptian control.

Costs of UNEF

The Prime Minister of Canada has already expressed in this Assembly hall Canada's willingness to continue its contribution to UNEF as long as this is considered necessary by the United Nations. We are fully aware of those reasons why the duration or extent of UNEF's operation cannot be defined at this time. I can see no particular advantage in attempting that definition now. Nevertheless, we of Canada 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,