

Lebanon and Jordan—Later developments

The Secretary-General at once left for the Middle East to consult with the governments of the area on the resolution, and in a report of September 29 to the ordinary session of the Assembly* outlined the "practical arrangements" which he proposed to make under the August 21 resolution as a result of his trip. These arrangements included the appointment of a "special representative" of the United Nations in Amman, with an appropriate staff, the possible establishment of supporting "liaison offices" in Beirut and Damascus, and a suggestion regarding the designation of a diplomatic representative at United Nations headquarters for contacts with other Arab governments. No special arrangements were considered necessary for Lebanon beyond the planned expansion of UNOGIL, the strength of which was subsequently increased to a total of 591 men from 19 countries, including 73 military observers from Canada. The Secretary-General's report also included memoranda from the United States and United Kingdom Governments regarding their intentions, in the light of the arrangements made, to begin the withdrawal of their forces in the near future, in agreement with the Lebanese and Jordanian Governments respectively. A few days later definite announcements were made regarding the withdrawals, which were completed without delay: the last United States forces left Lebanon on October 25, and the last United Kingdom forces left Jordan on November 2, after the United Nations had given assistance in facilitating an airlift over territory of the U.A.R.

UNOGIL, in its report of September 29, covering the period August 11 — September 20, had stated that if any infiltration was still taking place, its extent could be regarded as insignificant. Now, on November 17, the Group submitted a final report stating that its task might be regarded as completed, in view of the absence for some time of reports of infiltration or arms smuggling and the improvement in the Lebanese security situation. On the same day the Secretary-General circulated a letter from the Lebanese Foreign Minister requesting the deletion of the Lebanese complaint from the Security Council agenda, and the Council signified its agreement on November 25. The withdrawal of the main body of UNOGIL from Lebanon was completed by December 9.

The Sudanese Complaint

Another inter-Arab issue was aired in the Security Council early in 1958, when the Sudanese Government requested, on February 20, an urgent meeting of the Council to discuss "the grave situation existing on the Sudanese-Egyptian border, resulting from the massed concentration of Egyptian troops moving towards the Sudanese frontiers."

The complaint arose out of a boundary dispute between Egypt and the Sudan, which was brought to a head in February as a result of two impending developments, both of which had a bearing on the position of the parties in the boundary dispute: the plebiscite on Egyptian-Syrian union, scheduled for February 21, and the elections which were to be held in the Sudan on February 27. Notification by the Egyptian authorities in mid-February that they intended to send election committees and frontier guards into the disputed territories, in order to hold the plebiscite there, caused considerable concern in the Sudan. An Egyptian compromise proposal that neither the plebiscite nor the elections be held in the disputed areas proved unacceptable to the Sudanese authorities. Conversely, the Egyptian Govern-

*—Doc. A/3934/Rev. 1.