

asked for an early Council meeting on the grounds of the inability of the Government of Cyprus to agree to an international peace-keeping force proposed by Britain and the serious deterioration of the security situation on the island, especially in Limassol.

The Security Council held ten meetings between February 18 and March 4.¹ On the latter date, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution recommending the creation, with the consent of the Government of Cyprus, of a United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Force would be stationed on the island for three months and its size and composition would be established by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Governments of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Britain. The terms of reference for UNFICYP required it to use its best efforts to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to contribute, as necessary, to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions. Lieutenant-General P. S. Gyani of India, the first commander of the Force, was succeeded by General K. S. Thimayya, also of India, at the end of June. The resolution also recommended the designation, in agreement with the Governments of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Britain, of a Mediator, who was to use his best endeavours with the representatives of the two communities and the four governments to promote a peaceful solution and an agreed settlement of the problem confronting Cyprus. The first Mediator was Mr. Sakari Tuomioja of Finland but, following his death, he was succeeded on September 16 by Mr. Galo Plaza of Ecuador.

Early in March, the Secretary-General held discussions with a number of member states on the possibility of forming a peace-keeping Force. In its discussions with the United Nations authorities, the Canadian Government outlined a number of conditions that would have to be met before its troops could participate in a Cyprus operation. These were that the Force had to have an association with the United Nations, that it had to be multi-national, that it should be operating with the knowledge and approval of the Government of Cyprus, and that satisfactory arrangements should be made to finance it.

On March 13, 1964, the Canadian Government requested the House of Commons to approve the participation of Canadian troops in the Force. In the debate on the motion, the Prime Minister said :

I think all of us are deeply concerned about the inherent danger of sharp conflict developing out of this Cyprus situation between the neighbouring countries who are,

¹ Throughout 1964, the Security Council devoted 27 meetings to the situation in Cyprus and relations between Greece and Turkey, including two meetings in September to discuss Greek allegations of the mistreatment of Greek nationals in Turkey and Turkish counter-charges of "provocative military action" by Greece against Turkey.