

to participate, and later in the day I wrote a formal communication to him to that effect, saying that we had decided to make an appropriate contribution subject to the required constitutional action being taken in Canada.

The next day I also talked with the Secretary-General about the force and he was then also emphatic, for the obvious reason that the situation seemed to be deteriorating, that we must proceed quickly. We discussed the nature of our contribution that afternoon, I by telephone with my colleagues in Ottawa, when the question of a battalion came up. Meanwhile General Burns had been appointed as commander of the force and he will do a distinguished job in that position, I am sure, as he has been doing so in that area in the last two years in the face of very great difficulties indeed.

General Burns was asked to come to New York, and those countries that had already announced their desire to contribute were asked to send military advisers to New York to discuss the problem with the Secretary-General, his staff and General Burns. The Canadian Department of National Defense sent three officers down immediately and the next day, Tuesday, November 6, the Prime Minister announced that Canada would offer, and I quote:

Subject to adjustment and/or rearrangement after consultation with the United Nations commander--

--a self-contained battalion group with HMSC Magnificent as a temporary mobile base.

The consultations which we had had in New York up to that time led us to believe that would be a most welcome contribution, and we were urged to press ahead with it. The Secretary-General told me he was most anxious for us to get our battalion to a place where it could be embarked without delay.

General Burns reached New York a little later than we expected because he had to go to Cairo en route. The possibility then was mentioned that one country might provide all the administrative and air support at least in the initial stages. General Burns had found that difficulties were already developing because the infantry that had arrived, mostly from the Scandinavian countries and also from Colombia, were reaching the base without the necessary services and there was no headquarters organized to receive them.

These reports were sent by me to Ottawa. I returned to discuss them with my colleagues over the week end, and while I was in Ottawa the Secretary-General through his executive assistant phoned me on Saturday, November 10, about another difficulty that was developing and which has been referred to already in this discussion, namely that the Egyptian authorities