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The Secretary-General, in his report to the Security Council on October 26, 1973, set out as essential conditions that the force must have at all times the full confidence and backing of the Security Council, and that it must operate with the full co-operation of the parties concerned. This report was approved by the Security Council and we felt more assured that the 1973 UNEF was to be on a sounder basis than that of 1956. It is on that basis that we acceded to the Secretary-General's request of October 27 and accepted our assignment on the force.

Subsequently, an argument developed in the Security Council about having representation in UNEF of various geographical and political groupings. We can understand the desirability of having representation of various geographical areas in a UN force. However, Canada does not view its participation in UNEF in terms of political representation but in terms of performing an essential function. When I have been asked from time to time shouldn't there be a representative of the Warsaw Pact as well as a representative of NATO, of which Canada is a member, I have said that we do not consider ourselves as acting in the capacity of representing anyone but the international community as a whole.

In any event, the Security Council decided that the logistic role should be shared between Canada and Poland. I have made it clear that there is no objection on our part to working with Poland, provided a clear and practical division of responsibilities can be worked out. Our concern is with the efficient operation of the logistics component. It is unfortunate that the debate in the Security Council delayed the dispatch of logistical support units by a full week and threw some confusion on the Canadian role in UNEF. Following the Security Council's agreement of November authorizing the Secretary-General to consult with potential contributors, including Canada and Poland, our Ambassador to the United Nations continued discussions with officials from the UN Secretariat and Poland on the organization and composition of the logistics element.

At the same time, at the request of the Secretary-General, evaluation teams were dispatched to Cairo to assess the requirements on the ground. As a result of these discussions, the Secretary-General requested, and we agreed, that, as the first phase in the deployment of a Canadian contingent, Canada would provide a signals unit to provide communications for the force. Poland will be dispatching an engineer unit as the first element in its contribution.

The Secretary-General is continuing his discussions with both Canada and Poland to determine the next phase of the logistics

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