

a support element to the Force and is responsible for the heavy lift of mails, priority cargo and transport of passengers between Egypt and Italy; and the other at El Arish (Egypt), which provides air communications within the area of operation of the Force. It is responsible for reconnaissance, medical evacuation and internal transport support. The Canadian contingent comprises also a reconnaissance squadron of some 20 Ferret scout cars which patrol the demarcation line. The Commander of the Force is a Canadian, Major-General E. L. M. Burns, who formerly acted as Chief of Staff of the UN Truce Supervision Organization. The Canadian contingent is now in the process of completing the rotation of its personnel, most of whom have served a full year term. Some of the other contingents rotate their troops every six months.

Secretary-General's Report

In his recent report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General remarked that the Force "had earned acceptance as a significant pioneering effort in the evolution of methods of peace-making". A study of the report indicates that the Force has unquestionably been effective in its role, which has been defined by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Assembly, as "to help maintain quiet during and after the withdrawal of non-Egyptian troops". In this connection it is noteworthy that frontier incidents have been at a minimum in recent months along the Egyptian-Israeli armistice demarcation line. During the performance of its task, UNEF has enjoyed good relations, in general, with the population of the Gaza Strip; and, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs said in his statement to the UN, the Egyptian Government has adopted a helpful attitude towards the Force's presence and functioning in Egyptian-controlled territory.

The Secretary-General has, however, reminded members of the United Nations that the Force is limited in its authority; it was not established to *enforce* the withdrawal of forces or the maintenance of peaceful conditions along the armistice line, and it does not use all normal military methods in achieving the objectives defined for it by the General Assembly. Furthermore there is still a need to find, at the appropriate time, satisfactory solutions for certain unresolved issues, among which are: the completion of UNEF's deployment (it operates only on Egyptian-controlled territory, despite the Assembly resolution calling for it to be placed on the Armistice line); authority to fire during darkness at infiltrators approaching the line from either direction; and the proposal for a protective fence along the armistice line. "The line under present conditions is vulnerable", said the Secretary-General in his report, "and the quiet, at any moment, could be abruptly broken". Nevertheless it is clear that the Force is, in his words, "one of the pre-conditions for the preservation of quiet along the line between Egypt and Israel. Such quiet, in turn, is indispensable to fruitful effort towards the removal of the major obstacles to peace in the Near East".

Statement by Mr. Smith

Reproduced below is the text of the statement made in the UN General Assembly on November 22 by Mr. Sidney Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in introducing the 21-power draft resolution on UNEF:

The representatives present at this meeting of the General Assembly need hardly be reminded that, slightly more than a year ago, the Assembly met in emergency session