

air component was also essential. The Force itself had to be organized so that the various elements were in proportion to the requirements dictated by the tasks to be performed.

Canadian willingness to contribute was expressed at the time that UNEF was first considered. On November 4 Mr. Pearson wrote to the Secretary-General that "the Canadian Government has decided to make an appropriate contribution, the details of which will be communicated to you shortly, subject to the required constitutional action which will be put in motion without delay". On November 7 the following press announcement was made by the Prime Minister:

To comply with the resolutions of the United Nations, the Canadian Government has agreed to make an offer of a Canadian contingent to the emergency international United Nations Force for the Middle East. This proposal is subject to adjustment and/or re-arrangement after consultation with the United Nations Commander. Arrangements have already been made for a group of Canadian officers to be available today for consultation with the UN Commander in New York as soon as he arrives.

It is proposed to offer a Canadian contingent of battalion strength, augmented by ordnance, army service corps, medical and dental detachments to ensure that the battalion group is self-contained and can operate independently from a Canadian base. The size of the contingent is expected to be over 1,000 men.

Canada will be prepared to have this force lifted by the RCAF to the Middle East.

It is proposed to provide this contingent with a temporary mobile Canadian base for the first phase of its policing operations. The Canadian Government is prepared to use HMCS MAGNIFICENT for the purpose of transporting vehicles and stores to the Middle East and for use as a temporary mobile Canadian base for rations, medical supplies, ammunition, fuel and limited accommodation stores. HMCS MAGNIFICENT will also provide a small hospital to accommodate the sick and injured in the force; accommodation for a force headquarters; and communications between the force and Canada.

A written reply to Mr. Pearson's letter was not sent until November 19, but meanwhile the Canadian offer had been orally accepted. Discussion in New York in the early days of November had suggested that the form of Canadian contribution described in the press release quoted above would be welcomed; but developments in the next few days showed the need for further consideration. There were two separate reasons for the pause in completing arrangements.

The first was the need for consultations between the Secretary-General and the Government of Egypt about the entry of the Force into Egypt. The Egyptian Government tried to assert a right to determine what troops should participate in the Force and the Secretary-General reported to Mr. Pearson that, when he was in Cairo, a question had been raised with him as to the possibility of incidents resulting from the similarity of Canadian and United Kingdom uniforms. This was advanced as a reason why Canadian infantry should not participate in the Force.

Since the composition of UNEF was the responsibility of the United Nations and not of individual governments, it would not have been appropriate that the Egyptian Government should agree or disagree on the form of Canadian participation. On this there was no difference between the Canadian Government and the Secretary-General.

As the study of the composition of UNEF developed, however, the second reason for delay on the character of Canadian forces to be contributed became the effective—and the only—cause of a modification of the earlier plans. As