

and I should like to say a few words about that.

There have been a good many questions in this House. It is true, I dealt with this matter at some length in the House on November 27, and I also referred to it in the White Paper, at page 13, which I have mentioned.

We have from the very beginning, from the first statement of the Canadian delegate in New York on November 7, underlined the difficulties as well as the importance of this first United Nations Emergency Force. There is great hope in it for the future if it succeeds on this occasion, but it is an experiment and new ground, hard ground at times, is being broken. We have no illusions, and have had no illusions about the problems it would encounter. Cynicism has been expressed by some members in this House about this Force and there have been jibes from some quarters in this House about the nature of Canadian participation in the Force. But whatever the future may hold for this Force, I think it is fair to say that the United Nations Emergency Force has already performed an absolutely indispensable role in securing and supervising the cease-fire, in preventing a recurrence of conflict or the spreading of that conflict when it began.

Some weeks ago, General Burns wrote me a personal letter from his headquarters acknowledging a further contingent of supporting units that were going forward from Canada for the United Nations Emergency Force. In that letter he stated that the Canadians already in the force had made "all the difference in the world in the efficient operation of the administrative side of the military effort." He added that he "just could not have done without them." He also said, Mr. Speaker, that the R.C.A.F. element in his Force had worked long hours in arduous conditions and deserved very great credit for its efficiency and devotion to duty.

There has been some argument about the status of this Force. The Government from the outset has accepted the guiding principle, included in the Secretary-General's report of last November, and specifically endorsed by the General Assembly, that the United Nations Assembly could not request the Force to be stationed or operate on the territory of a given country without the consent of the government of that country. The rights of sovereignty of the country in the circumstances under discussion could not be infringed upon by other states, even acting through the United Nations Assembly, which has no power in fact so to infringe in contrast with the Security Council, when actions are being taken by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Mr. Nesbitt: Is this resolution not based on the "Uniting for Peace" Resolution, part A?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, all of our action in the United Nations Assembly at the special emergency session dealing with this Middle East crisis was based on the "Uniting for Peace"