

Its peaceful purpose was to assist in the withdrawal of invading forces. We think it can also be used to assist in the maintenance of the Armistice on which both parties have agreed. And I do not see how this function of the United Nations Emergency Force could possibly be considered as one of occupation in any way, shape or form.

Let us not be confused and misled by semantics, either exaggerating or unduly limiting the value and the functions of this Force. Our United Nations Force is in being. It is operating effectively now under the blue flag of peace of the United Nations. It is no threat to the sovereignty of any nation and, whatever we may say here in debate, it expects -- and I feel sure that it will receive -- the co-operation of the peoples and the Governments in the countries in which it operates for one purpose only: the prevention of conflict and the creation of an atmosphere which will make possible a peace settlement.

This Force can do a great new work for peace in the area if we give it the chance. I hope, in spite of the doubts that I have expressed about its ambiguous wording in one or two places and in spite of conflicting views about its meaning, that this draft resolution will give the United Nations and its Emergency Force that chance.

Such a hope will only be realized, however, if, first, Israel forces are withdrawn and, secondly, if we back up the Secretary-General firmly and constructively in the task we are giving him, a task which I know he will undertake with the energy, sincerity and devotion he has already shown. If we do this, then we can be sure, I think, that the Secretary-General will use the authority we are now giving him and through the Force for peace which we have created ourselves, in a way which will bring about better conditions of security in the area than have existed in the troublous and unhappy past, and thereby make an indispensable contribution to the peaceful and just political settlement which must come.

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