

has been facing this Assembly for so many weeks. Today I am glad to be able to welcome the Secretary-General's report (A/3568) which, in its first part, records the full compliance by Israel with General Assembly resolution I of 2 February 1957. Mr. Pearson has already expressed in this Assembly our satisfaction with Israel's decision to follow this wise and responsible course.

Part II of the Secretary-General's report points out that, with the withdrawal of Israel from Sharm al-Shaik and the Gaza strip, the second resolution adopted by the Assembly on 2 February becomes operative. In view of statements which the Canadian Delegation has made earlier in the course of the Assembly debate on this subject, I need hardly re-emphasize the support with which the Canadian Delegation welcomes this part of the report. We have consistently urged that withdrawal should immediately be followed by the implementation of measures proposed in the Secretary-General's reports and particularly in his report of 24 January (A/3512). We believe that those constructive measures will help to achieve the conditions of peace and security which are so necessary if we are not to return to the very unsatisfactory situation which existed in the area prior to the fighting last November.

We believe that the essential elements of the arrangements for securing and supervising the cease-fire and withdrawal will be the interposition of the UNEF between the armed forces of the opposing sides. The Canadian position in this regard is too well known to require detailed repetition. I need only refer to remarks made by my Foreign Minister in previous debates about the deployment of UNEF on the Armistice line. We still believe that after the withdrawal of Israel there is a need for a scrupulous observance of the Armistice Agreement of 1949 and for the deployment of the UNEF to assist in the achievement of that end. We have in mind in particular that the Force should assist in preventing incursions, raids and retaliatory attacks from either direction across the demarcation line.

Part III of the Secretary-General's report speaks about arrangements for the initial take-over in Gaza by UNEF and about the assistance which the Force and UNRWA will extend in the civilian administration of the Gaza strip. We recognize that these functions will be complex and difficult. They will add greatly to the responsibilities of the Secretary-General, the Commander of UNEF and the Director of UNRWA. We urge that all Governments concerned should co-operate fully with the various United Nations agencies in order to ensure that the arrangements for take-over proceed smoothly. Arrangements like this were envisaged in the programme which Mr. Pearson suggested to the Assembly on 26 February and we hope they will have the fullest support of the Assembly.

I should not like to close these brief remarks without some reference to the future. We all know that in the efforts to bring about the complete withdrawal of Israel the resources of the Assembly have been severely taxed. We can rightly sigh with relief today because this difficult phase is past, at least as far as the Assembly is concerned. In our relief at this time, however, we should not forget our continuing responsibility for ensuring that events in the areas concerned may move forward. Conditions must not be allowed to slide back into the unhealthy situation which led to the explosion and fighting last autumn. We earnestly hope that today marks the beginning of constructive development and we believe the Secretary-General's reports, and in particular this latest one, lay the groundwork for progress. Progress will not be easy, however, and it should not be assumed. That is why we have a continuing responsibility to see that progress is made.

As the Canadian Delegation has frequently suggested during this crisis, real progress can only be made when parties to the dispute have made up their minds to settle their differences. We are not suggesting that this can be an easy or a sudden development. We recognize the deep apprehension among the Arab States, derived primarily from the displacement of Arab peoples when Israel was established. We are conscious, too, of the anxiety and frustration in Israel, which sees itself as being surrounded by hostile neighbours. We have suggested before in this Assembly that the time may have come, however, for the Arab States to accept the fact of Israel's existence and to give fresh consideration to what their relations should be with the new State. In return for this recognition, however, the Arab nations are entitled to assurances that Israel has no expansionist ambitions. This is not likely to result in the use of force or the threat of force as a means of achieving national aims.