

to be a withdrawal of foreign forces from Egyptian territory; the United Nations Emergency Force was to be built up, and arrangements made for financing and other administrative matters connected with it; and the Suez Canal was to be cleared under United Nations auspices.

To turn first to the progress of withdrawal: On December 3 the permanent representatives of the United Kingdom and France to the United Nations each sent to the Secretary-General a *Note verbale*. The communications, which were identical in substance, noted that an effective United Nations force was now arriving in Egypt; that the Secretary-General accepted the responsibility of arranging for expeditious clearing of the Canal; that free and secure transit through the Canal would be re-established when it was clear; that the Secretary-General "will promote as quickly as possible negotiations in regard to the future régime of the Canal on the basis of the six requirements set out in the Security Council decision of 13 October".

The Notes went on:

Her Majesty's Government and the French Government confirm their decision to continue the withdrawal of their forces now in the Port Said area without delay.

They have accordingly instructed the allied Commander, General Keightley, to seek agreement with the United Nations Commander, General Burns, on a timetable for the complete withdrawal, taking account of the military and practical questions involved. This timetable should be reported as quickly as possible to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In preparing these arrangements the Allied Commander will ensure:

- (a) That the embarkation of personnel or material shall be carried out in an efficient and orderly manner;
- (b) That proper regard will be had to the maintenance of public security in the area now under allied control;
- (c) That the United Nations Commander should make himself responsible for the safety of any French and British salvage resources left at the disposition of a United Nations salvage organization.

In communicating these conclusions Her Majesty's Government and the French Government recall the strong representations they have made regarding the treatment of their nationals in Egypt. They draw attention to the humane treatment accorded to Egyptian nationals in the United Kingdom and France. They feel entitled to demand that the position of the British and French nationals in Egypt should be fully guaranteed.

The withdrawal of United Kingdom and French forces duly proceeded and was completed by December 22. Meanwhile elements of the Israeli forces continued to be withdrawn behind the armistice line.

The United Nations Emergency Force involved a number of problems for which there were no precedents that were fully relevant. One clear-cut decision—and it was an early one—was that no countries which were permanent members of the Security Council should take part. In drawing from the large number of other countries which offered contributions⁽¹⁾ it was considered desirable to have as wide and as balanced representation as was practicable. In his second report to the Assembly the Secretary-General suggested that countries should provide self-contained units. It was thought at first that UNEF would be composed of a few infantry units, together with supporting, administrative, communications, and headquarters elements. An

⁽¹⁾ The countries which offered were: Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Roumania, Sweden, Yugoslavia.