

one in its implementation from the other. In that sense we give an interpretation to the word "immediately" which has been given by others as meaning as quickly as possible. In our mind there is a relationship bearing on this word "immediately" between the withdrawal of the forces referred to in the resolution and the arrival and the functioning of the United Nations Force.

With the adoption of this draft resolution by a vote of 65 in favour, 1 opposed (Israel), and 10 abstentions, the remaining action by the special session of the Assembly on the Middle Eastern question was to adopt a resolution (66 in favour, none opposed, 2 abstentions) placing the Middle Eastern question on the provisional agenda of the regular session as a matter of priority.

The Eleventh Session of the General Assembly quickly agreed that the Middle East item should be included on its agenda and regarded as a priority matter; and that to gain time, it should be discussed in plenary session. Opinions were expressed on the substance of the question throughout the course of the general debate, but it was some days before draft resolutions were examined.

The special session of the Assembly had concentrated on two methods of dealing with the immediate situation. The first of these was to secure a cease-fire and withdrawal of French, United Kingdom, and Israeli forces. The second was to organize and send to Egypt an emergency force. It appeared to be the consensus in the Assembly that these two measures were interdependent; in particular this was the view of the powers involved in hostilities. The cease-fire became effective on November 7, soon after the first landings of United Kingdom and French troops. By November 8 withdrawal had been accepted in principle by the three Governments concerned, but its implementation was related by all three to the presence and functioning in Egypt of the United Nations Force.

There was now, however, a third and urgent problem before the United Nations; the clearance of the Suez Canal made necessary by the sinking of ships and destruction of bridges during the hostilities.

On November 9 advance units of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) reached a staging area near Naples, and on November 15 advance units arrived in the Canal Zone near Ismailia. During the same period both the Secretary-General and General Burns visited Cairo to discuss arrangements. Before the former's visit he had been able to announce that Egypt had accepted in principle the entry of the UNEF. On leaving Egypt he announced that the Egyptian Government had asked that the Canal be cleared with United Nations assistance after French and the United Kingdom forces had been withdrawn from the Canal area; and that he had told that Government that the United Nations was "willing in principle" to assume the task.

Apart from comments made in the course of the general debate, it was not until November 23 that the Assembly specifically addressed itself to the Middle East question. It then had before it four reports from the Secretary-General and two draft resolutions.

Two subjects—or groups of subjects—were before the Assembly for two long days of debate on November 23-24, and may be examined in the order in which they came up for vote.

The first had to do with the withdrawal of foreign forces from Egyptian territory. In a report dated November 21 the Secretary-General referred to the Assembly request that he report on compliance with the resolutions calling