

determining whether the United Nations can develop its potential further in this direction. It is, therefore, a matter of prime importance both for the preservation of peace in the Middle East and for the prestige and authority of the UN that UNEF be provided with the means to carry out its tasks effectively.

The Canadian Government has consistently held the view that support for UNEF is a collective responsibility of all members of the UN, and that this responsibility should be discharged by assessing all members in accordance with the regular scale of assessments. We remain of this view. The Force was created without a dissenting vote and has been supported in principle by an overwhelming majority of the member states. Such collective decisions and policies as this will be meaningless, however, unless we are prepared not only to recognize but also to act on the principle of collective responsibility and collective sharing of financial obligations.

We recognize, however, that the existing basis of assessment for the UNEF budget has been a subject of considerable controversy, though it should be noted that the overwhelming majority of the replies to the Secretary-General's request for views pursuant to last year's resolution 1337 (XIII) has been in favour of the sharing of UNEF expenses among all members.

At one extreme, the Soviet Delegation has denied that UNEF was legally constituted or is a proper charge against member states. In this connection it is sufficient, I think, to recall that the U.S.S.R. did not vote against the establishment of UNEF and that the Soviet Delegation itself last year invoked the same General Assembly resolution 377 (V) in accordance with which the Force was established.

There are other delegations which support the Force and accept the principle of collective responsibility but question whether the principle is properly applied by use of the regular scale.

One suggestion is that the cost of UNEF should be borne in great part by the permanent members of the Security Council on the grounds that these states have special responsibilities under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. There is no doubt that the so-called "Great Powers" do in practice have the greater shares of this responsibility, but the United Nations Charter does *not* give these states, or any other members, special responsibilities in this field. To give special responsibilities to the permanent members of the Security Council would be a violation of the basic principle of the sovereign equality of states which is explicitly recognized in the Charter and is embodied in the United Nations rule of one vote for one state. But once again it must be emphasized that with the political right and responsibility so established goes financial responsibility.

It has also been suggested that the cost of UNEF should be borne by those countries to whom this operation has been of special interest and benefit. In our view, this would throw into question the financing of a wide range of other United Nations activities that are of special interest to particular regions of the world. Those who seek to apply a separate scale of assessment based on the