

Canada and the United Nations

The United Nations Emergency Force

On November 22, the United Nations General Assembly debated and passed a draft resolution introduced by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, and co-sponsored by 20 other nations, regarding the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East. The resolution "noted with appreciation" the Secretary General's report on the Force dated October 9, 1957, approved his proposals for the allocation of costs between participating countries and the United Nations, and provided for the raising of the necessary additional funds required for 1957 and 1958 through common assessment of all members. (The funds to be raised by this method include at least \$3 - 4 million for 1957, and \$25 million for 1958, after deduction of "special assistance" recently offered by the U.S. (\$12 million), the U.K. (\$1 million) and several other countries.) Fifty-one countries, including Israel and Jordan, voted in favour of the resolution, 11 countries opposed (the Soviet bloc, Chile and Ecuador) and 19 countries abstained (the remainder of the Arab States including Morocco and Tunisia, Cambodia, China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Malaya, Nepal and Panama).

During the debate on the resolution most of the speakers expressed approval of the useful role the Force is playing in the Middle East. The only objections to the principle of the Force voiced during the discussion were made by the representatives of the Soviet bloc, who reaffirmed their view that the establishment of armed forces of the United Nations under Chapter VII of the Charter falls exclusively within the competence of the Security Council.* The majority of the abstentions on the UNEF resolutions appear to have been made on the ground that the Assembly resolution of February 2, 1957, which called for "the placing of the . . . Force on the Egyptian-Israel Armistice Demarcation Line" has so far been only partially fulfilled; a few countries abstained or opposed the resolution because of the financial burden which it would place on them.

Canadian Participation in UNEF

The prominent role which the Canadian Delegation played, both before and during the debate, in helping to ensure the passage of the UNEF resolution is a logical outgrowth of the close concern which Canada has had with UNEF since the establishment of the Force. It will be recalled that the initial resolution of November 4, 1956 requesting the Secretary-General to submit a plan for the setting up of the Force was introduced into the Assembly by the Canadian representative; and that Canada was one of the three co-sponsors of the resolution of November 5, 1956 which actually established the Force and appointed Major-General E. L. M. Burns as its Commander. Subsequently Canada became a member of the Advisory Committee established by the Assembly on November 7 to assist the Secretary-General in carrying out his

*The special session of the UN General Assembly which established UNEF in November, 1956 was convened under the terms of the "Uniting for Peace" resolution which provides for emergency meetings of the General Assembly, on the request of any seven members of the Security Council if the Council, because of lack of unanimity among its permanent members, fails to act where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression.