

"This is a quotation from the Egyptian communication. And that declaration was balanced in the aide-memoire by a declaration on the part of the United Nations, through the Secretary-General, and I quote, that 'the activities of UNEF will be guided, in good faith, by the task established for the Force' in the resolution of the General Assembly, and that—again I quote—in particular, the United Nations, understanding this to correspond to the wishes of the Government of Egypt, reaffirms its willingness to maintain the UNEF until its task is completed.'

"This, then, . . . is the nature of Egypt's consent to the presence and functioning of the United Nations Emergency Force on Egyptian territory. There has been no infringement on the sovereignty of the Government of Egypt by the action of any other government or governments. But in the arrangements made and in the agreement which I have referred to, the United Nations, which established this Force to do certain tasks, clearly has a right to be consulted as to whether and when these tasks have been discharged, as it would if they were to be extended. From this, it follows in our view, and this is the view of the Secretary-General also, that if Egypt should at any time make a request for UNEF's withdrawal, the appropriate procedure would be for that request to go first to the Advisory Committee on UNEF through the Secretary-General. There it would be discussed by the Committee which

was set up for that purpose by the Assembly, and if necessary and desirable the whole matter could then be referred to the full Assembly for decision. And therefore any question of whether UNEF should be withdrawn would become a matter for discussion with and decision by the United Nations. This is this government's understanding of the procedure which should be followed.

"Having said that, however, I should add if Egypt refused to accept the United Nations view that UNEF's task was still unfinished, and that UNEF should not be withdrawn, Egypt would, in our view, be nullifying its acceptance of the Assembly's basic resolution establishing the Force and laying down its function.

"Nevertheless, the Assembly does not have any authority under the Charter of the United Nations to create binding legal obligations on member states, and Egypt, therefore, could not, in the last resort, be compelled by the United Nations Assembly to continue to accept any resolution or to cooperate in carrying it out. The Assembly cannot force its view on any state although in certain contingencies the Security Council can attempt to do that."

8. In the series of annual reports entitled *Canada and the United Nations*, in *The Crisis in the Middle East, October-December, 1956*, in the monthly bulletin *External Affairs* and in the *House of Commons Debates*.