

agreement, then the effectiveness depends really upon the administration and execution of the operation under an experienced person. That is where Burns comes in.

“In this case, with the exception of the Israeli delay over evacuating Gaza, all these factors were positive. You have the withdrawal agreement called for by the UN General Assembly being held to by the parties to the dispute—the Israelis, French, British and Egyptians—and they didn’t depart from it. You didn’t have any serious break in the overall position, although the Russians did challenge the validity of moving the authority from the Security Council to the General Assembly, because they always challenge that. Then you had this very efficient and considerate commander who could carry out the instructions of the Secretary-General and also get the sympathetic support of his sub-commanders. So it all worked very well.”