

The General Assembly met on November 1 at 5 p.m. By that time Egypt had rejected the Anglo-French proposals<sup>(1)</sup>; Israel had accepted with the condition that Egypt should also accept; and the United Kingdom and France had begun to bomb airfields and other military targets in Egypt. After some general statements had been made by various delegations, the United States introduced a new draft resolution:

*The General Assembly*

*Noting* the disregard on many occasions by parties to the Israel-Arab Armistice Agreements of 1949 of the terms of such agreements, and that the armed forces of Israel have penetrated deeply into Egyptian territory in violation of the General Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel,

*Noting* that armed forces of France and the United Kingdom are conducting military operations against Egyptian territory,

*Noting* that traffic through the Suez Canal is now interrupted to the serious prejudice of many nations,

*Expressing* its grave concern over these developments,

1. *Urges* as a matter of priority that all parties now involved in hostilities in the area agree to an immediate cease-fire and as part thereof halt the movement of military forces and arms into the area;

2. *Urges* the parties to the Armistice Agreements promptly to withdraw all forces behind the Armistice lines, to desist from raids across the Armistice lines into neighbouring territory, and to observe scrupulously the provisions of the Armistice Agreements;

3. *Recommends* that all members refrain from introducing military goods in the area of hostilities and in general refrain from any acts which would delay or prevent the implementation of this resolution;

4. *Urges* that upon the cease-fire being effective steps be taken to re-open the Suez Canal and restore secure freedom of navigation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to observe and promptly report on the compliance with this resolution, to the Security Council and the General Assembly, for such further action as they may deem appropriate in accordance with the Charter;

6. *Decides* to remain in emergency session pending compliance with this resolution.

As the debate proceeded, a proposal was accepted that a vote be taken after hearing from three more speakers for, and three against, the resolution. The United States resolution was then carried by sixty-four delegations in favour, five (United Kingdom, Australia, France, Israel and New Zealand) against, and six (Portugal, South Africa, Belgium, Canada, Laos and the Netherlands) abstaining.

Because of the decision on voting procedure a number of delegations, including that of Canada, had no opportunity to speak on the draft resolution before the vote was taken. After the vote, and in the early hours of November 2, Mr. L. B. Pearson, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, explained the abstention of the Canadian Delegation:

I rise not to take part in this debate, because the debate is over. The vote has been taken. But I do wish to explain the abstention of my delegation on that vote.

<sup>(1)</sup> In a letter from the representative of Egypt received late on October 30 by the Security Council, the position of the Egyptian Government was expressed in regard to "flagrant violation of the rights of Egypt and of the Charter of the United Nations." The letter calls for a meeting of the Security Council (already in session); and states that, "until the Security Council has taken the necessary measures, Egypt has no choice but to defend itself and safeguard its rights against such aggression."