

does not veto the participation of any units in this Force and that this is quite clear with the Secretary-General. The question of when the Canadian infantry units come forward will be determined by the advice we get from the Commanding Officer sent on by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Lynch: Do you think it was unfortunate that a regiment with the name "The Queen's Own Rifles" which might be calculated to set the Egyptian hair standing on end, was chosen as the Canadian Regiment?

Mr. Pearson: Perhaps, but that is an honourable name for a Canadian regiment and, of course, while it may have lead to some temporary misunderstanding, we are not likely to change the names of our regiments for purposes of that kind.

Mr. Lynch: Canada seems to be playing a role in this matter of the Force out of all proportion to her population. Do you think she can carry it off and can we expect the Canadian role to continue on this level?

Mr. Pearson: I think we will be happy to participate in this force to the extent of our ability. I think Canadian opinion is behind this decision of the Government. This is an imaginative and important move on the part of the United Nations and Canada, which has been interested in the idea of a United Nations Police Force for many, many years, and has made previous proposals precisely to that end, will want to do her full part. We are also, as you have already stated, on the advisory committee which will have something to do with the determination of policy in regard to this matter and I think we will be glad to serve on that committee too.

Mr. Lynch: You said in the General Assembly that we have been very close to catastrophe over this Middle Eastern crisis. Is it too early to say that the crisis has been averted?

Mr. Pearson: It is too early to say. It did seem during that dramatic night when this idea of the Force was put forward in the debate, that the situation was very rapidly deteriorating and I think this idea of a United Nations Force going in has helped to hold the line. But it is far too early yet to say that the crisis has been averted and the dangers have been removed. We can't be too comfortable about that until we not only have brought about a cease-fire but we have also brought about a political settlement out there. Only then can you talk about dangers being over.

Mr. Lynch: What do you think the Soviet intentions really are in the Middle East?

Mr. Pearson: That's a very difficult question to answer categorically, but it seems to me that their actions have indicated that they would like to continue trouble out there.