

receiving the best advice it could. After receiving such advice from the United Nations itself we took that course, and as a result there is not a United Nations force which within between three and four weeks of the resolution authorizing it now includes on the spot--at least this was two days ago and there have been additions since that time--1,700 troops of which 20 per cent or 350 are Canadians. There will be soon more Canadians on the spot. Twenty-three nations have offered contributions to that force and eight of them including Canada, have seen their contributions embodied in the formations on the spot which are now working together under the United Nations blue flag of peace.

#### Immediate and long-term objectives

May this force succeed in its task. If it does we may have started something of immense value for the future. We may have taken a step to put force behind the collective will of the international community under the law. That is our immediate task, to make this force work, to prevent fighting in the area and to establish conditions there through the operation of this force so that the United Nations itself can work out speedily an enduring and honourable settlement for that area, including relations between Israel and her neighbours and the international supervision and control, if that can be done of the Suez Canal.

While that is our immediate objective we have another objective which is just as important and I suggest just as immediate, and that is to restore unity among the allies. The western coalition, which is essential for peace in these disturbed times and which requires close consultation and co-operation among its members if it is to succeed, especially among London, Washington and Paris, has been subjected to strains and stresses in recent months. This has caused all lovers of peace in the free world great anxiety.

May I in conclusion repeat something I said on this point the other night to the American assembly of Columbia University, when I said:

The inability to bring about a reconciliation of interests inside a coalition has resulted in a collapse of western co-operation in the Middle East; a collapse which has brought distress to everyone except those who see in such co-operation the strongest barrier to the attainment of their own imperialist and reactionary power objectives. This collapse is, I am convinced, only temporary; but temporary is too long.

It must be a primary obligation on all of us to speed and make effective the work of repair and restoration. Indeed, we must do more than this. We must strengthen and deepen the foundation for such co-operation so that a collapse will not take place again in the face of the pull between the requirements of national and international policy. At the moment that is the primary task and responsibility of all who believe in freedom and security.