

On March 8 the Assembly adjourned provisionally. Before doing so it received the report of the Secretary-General concerning the resolutions of February 2 (A/3568). In this the immediate situation⁽¹⁾ was explained.

1. The General Assembly, on 2 February 1957, adopted a resolution (A/RES/460) in which, after recalling its previous resolutions on the same subject, the Assembly called upon Israel to complete its withdrawal behind the Armistice Demarcation Line without further delay.

2. The Foreign Minister of Israel, on 1 March, announced in the General Assembly the decision of the Government of Israel to act in compliance with the request in this resolution. The same day the Secretary-General instructed the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, as a matter of the utmost urgency, to arrange for a meeting with the Israel Commander-in-Chief, in order to agree with him on arrangements for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly.

3. On 4 March, the Foreign Minister of Israel confirmed to the General Assembly the Government of Israel's declaration of 1 March. The same day the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force met at Lydda with the Israel Commander-in-Chief. Technical arrangements were agreed upon for the withdrawal of Israel and the entry of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Gaza strip during the hours of curfew on the night of 6/7 March. Arrangements were made for a similar take-over of the Sharm al-Shaik area on 8 March.

4. On 6 March, General Burns reported that the United Nations Emergency Force troops are now in position in all camps and centres of population in Gaza strip". At that stage the operation had been carried out according to plan and without incidents. At 0400 GMT 7 March all Israelis had withdrawn from the Gaza strip with the exception of an Israel troop unit at Rafah camp. By agreement, that last Israel element was to be withdrawn by 1600 GMT 8 March. Full withdrawal from the Sharm al-Shaik area would be effected by the same time.

5. On 7 March, the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force notified the population of Gaza that "the United Nations Emergency Force, acting in fulfilment of its functions as determined by the General Assembly of the United Nations with the consent of the Government of Egypt, is being deployed in this area for the purpose of maintaining quiet during and after the withdrawal of the Israel defence forces. Until further arrangements are made, the United Nations Emergency Force has assumed responsibility for civil affairs in the Gaza strip . . . UNRWA will continue to carry out its responsibility and will continue to provide food and other services as in the past. UNEF and UNRWA will do their best to relieve pressing needs which may arise from the present situation."

6. The Secretary-General, thus, is now in a position to report full compliance with General Assembly resolution I of 2 February 1957 (A/RES/460).

II

7. On 2 February, the General Assembly adopted a second resolution (A/RES/461) "recognizing that withdrawal by Israel must be followed by action which would assure progress towards the creation of peaceful conditions" in the area. Under the terms of this resolution, the completion of withdrawal puts its operative paragraphs into full effect.

8. In the resolution on action to follow a withdrawal, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the parties concerned, to carry out measures referred to in the resolution and to report as appropriate to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General will now devote his attention to this task. The stand of the General Assembly in the resolution is to be interpreted in the light of the report of the Secretary-General of 24 January (A/3512), which the Assembly noted "with appreciation".

⁽¹⁾ During the Session the Secretary-General gave later information. All Israeli troops had left the Gaza Strip, Sharm al-Shaik, and Tiran Island. Some Israeli vehicles, together with mechanics and dock personnel, awaited evacuation by sea. UNEF troops entered Sharm al-Shaik on March 8.