



RCAF Photo

END OF THE LINE

C-119's of the RCAF's 435 Transport Squadron line the tarmac at Abu Suweir airport in Egypt after a flight from the UN staging area in Naples, Italy. The Flying Boxcars have just disembarked a platoon of Finnish soldiers, part of that country's contribution to the United Nations Emergency Force, and are already being refueled for the return flight to Naples.

At mid-January the composition and strength of the national components of the UN Emergency Force were as follows: Brazil: 530; Canada: Army 789, R.C.A.F. 350; Colombia: 527; Denmark: 389; Finland: 257; India: 954; Indonesia: 593; Norway: 471; Sweden: 354; Yugoslavia: 783.

regard to its functions and its composition, of the political situation of any single member. The United Nations alone controls it and is responsible for it.

I agree, of course, that the Force—in the circumstances and on the basis of which it was set up, could not operate in the territory of a country without the consent of that country. That is why we are happy that Egypt has given that consent in principle and I am sure that we all agree that, in giving that consent to the constructive and helpful move, no infringement of sovereignty is involved. It is rather an example of using national sovereignty to bring about peace and security and a political settlement through United Nations action.

The control, then, of this Force is in the hands of the United Nations and must remain there. Otherwise it would not be a United Nations Force but it would be merely a collection of national forces, each under the control of its own Government and serving in another country with the consent of and under conditions laid down by that country. That, I am sure, would be unacceptable to most of the Governments in this Assembly.

Having said that, however, I do agree that the Secretary-General should certainly consult with the Government of the country in which the Force is serving, on all matters of any importance that affect it; also, as we understand it, the Force is to remain in the area until its task is completed, and that would surely be for the determination of the United Nations itself. It operates according to the principles as we understand them, where it is necessary to operate in order to accomplish its task, certainly between the opposing Powers to prevent conflict from recurring. As the Secretary-General has said in his report, its functions can be assumed to cover an area extending roughly from the Suez Canal to the armistice demarcation lines, and in that area to facilitate and aid the establishing and securing of peaceful conditions, as an indispensable prerequisite to a just and agreed political settlement.