

It is interesting to note in passing that four members of that committee are members of the Commonwealth of Nations. While we were trying to get this resolution through and get it through quickly and with a big majority--it was finally passed unanimously--another resolution, in the atmosphere of the fighting that was going on at that time in Suez, was introduced demanding the immediate withdrawal of forces, and that the secretary-general should report that this had been done in 24 hours. Both these resolutions were being considered together.

In so far as the force was concerned, as I said, the resolution passed unanimously after we had managed to vote down--and it was a very important vote indeed--an amendment to put Czechošlovakia on the advisory committee of seven. The resolution was then passed by 64 to 0, with 10 abstentions.

Mr. Churchill: Would you name the Advisory Committee?

Mr. Pearson: The Advisory Committee in this matter consists of Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Brazil, Colombo, Norway and Canada, with the Secretary General as the chairman of the committee.

The same evening, Mr. Speaker, a 19-power resolution demanding immediate withdrawal was passed by a vote of 65 with only one opposed, Israel, and with 10 abstentions. The United Kingdom and France did not oppose that resolution, they abstained on it. We voted for that resolution after having stated our interpretation, which was accepted by a good many other delegations, of the word "immediate". If that interpretation had not been stated and accepted by many we would not have voted for it. By "immediate" we said we had in mind that the United Kingdom and French forces would withdraw from Egypt as soon as the United Nations forces had been moved there and were operating satisfactorily. By getting our United Nations force resolution through and by accepting this Arab-Asian resolution of withdrawal, which had in it no element of sanctions, we were able to reject extreme demands which were being made, and which would have led us into grave danger indeed.

We think that the resolutions that night were a wise move, and we think also that they helped the United Kingdom and France in accepting the cease-fire, which they did either just before or shortly afterwards.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there has been a good deal of talk, though not very much in this house as yet, as to whether the United Kingdom and French governments were pressed into the acceptance of this cease-fire by United Nations action, and whether we should not have let them go ahead, not pressed them and resisted moves to press them in respect of this resolution on cease-fire and withdrawal. If we had done that, and the United Nations had kept out of this at that particular moment, it is said the British and French forces would have been able to complete the military job of clearing the canal of Egyptian forces from Port Said to Port Suez.