

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

56/33

### THE MIDDLE EAST

Statement delivered by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly Friday, November 23.

I do not propose to follow the representative of the USSR, who has preceded me, into the tangled underbrush of propaganda, exaggeration and fabrication into which he has just led the General Assembly. These speeches ceased to impress the great majority of the members of the Assembly many years ago, though they no doubt have some value to those who make them. They constitute a kind of verbal aggression against the truth against which, I am afraid, we shall never be able to bring about a cease-fire. But they have nothing to do with finding a solution to the serious problems which are facing us. Quite the contrary.

There are two draft resolutions before the Assembly, one of which my delegation has the honour to sponsor, along with the delegations of Colombia, India, Norway, the United States and Yugoslavia (A/3386). Before saying a few words about that draft resolution I should like to comment on the draft resolution contained in document A/3385, which deals with compliance with previous resolutions which have been passed by the Assembly on the question of withdrawal of forces from Egypt.

It seems to me that this draft resolution, at the present time - and I emphasize "at the present time"--is unnecessary because steps are being taken to bring about the withdrawal in question. Indeed, that withdrawal has begun; we believe that it will soon be completed, and we expect that to be done. We believe also that one way of expediting that process which has begun would be to do our work here quickly and satisfactorily in setting up a United Nations force, with functions which are agreed on, under the authority of the United Nations and of the United Nations only--a matter which is dealt with in the second draft resolution, which I hope will receive, and very quickly receive the endorsement of the General Assembly.

The withdrawal, as we see it, has begun. Now resolutions reiterating to previous resolutions are, I think, useful and often necessary when the original resolution of the Assembly has been treated with contempt and has been defied, as is the case with the United Nations resolution on Hungary.