

It will be noted that the action provisionally proposed by the United Kingdom was not based on the Agreement Regarding the Suez Canal Base signed by representatives of the United Kingdom and Egypt on October 19, 1954. By an Agreed Minute the two Governments recorded ten interpretations of certain points in the Agreement. One of these read:

The expression "outside Power" as used in Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement means any country other than (i) the countries referred to in those Articles and (ii) Israel.

The Articles mentioned are:

*Article 4*

In the event of an armed attack by an outside Power on any country which at the date of signature of the present Agreement is a party to the Treaty of Joint Defence between Arab League States, signed in Cairo on the 13th of April, 1950, or on Turkey, Egypt shall afford to the United Kingdom such facilities as may be necessary in order to place the Base on a war footing and to operate it effectively. These facilities shall include the use of Egyptian ports within the limits of what is strictly indispensable for the above-mentioned purposes.

*Article 6*

In the event of a threat of an armed attack by an outside Power on any country which at the date of the signature of the present Agreement is a party to the Treaty of Joint Defence between Arab League States or on Turkey, there shall be immediate consultation between Egypt and the United Kingdom.

At the Security Council meeting the United States representative introduced a draft resolution which called on Israel to withdraw its armed forces behind the established armistice lines; and upon all members "to refrain from the use of force or the threat of force in the area in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations", to assist the United Nations in ensuring the integrity of the armistice arrangements, and to refrain from giving assistance to Israel until it had complied with the resolution. The draft resolution was opposed by two permanent members (France and the United Kingdom) and therefore lost. A Soviet draft resolution, which embodied the first part of the United States one—withdrawal to the armistice line—and a Yugoslav amendment asking the Secretary General to report on compliance were similarly defeated.

On the following day, October 31, the Yugoslav Delegation proposed that an emergency special session of the General Assembly be called since "the lack of unanimity of its [the Council's] permanent members . . . has prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". The resolution was given seven votes in favour and was adopted, although opposed by France and the United Kingdom, since it was not subject to veto. Thus there had been invoked for the first time the "Uniting for Peace" resolution by which the General Assembly had, in 1950, agreed

That if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to members for collective measures, including in the case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security. If not in session at the time, the General Assembly may meet in emergency special session within twenty-four hours of the request therefor. Such emergency special session shall be called if requested by the Security Council on the vote of any seven members, or by a majority of the members of the United Nations.