

the absorption of forces has not yet been completed. On the whole, however, an amazing amount of work has been done.

Mr. Lynch: We have heard a lot here, and I believe in Ottawa as well, about these supposed Egyptian objections to Canadian participation in the Force that the Egyptians feel that the Canadians are too British for their tastes. Can you pin that one down?

Mr. Pearson: I know a great deal of interest has been aroused in that question and it is quite true that our own participation in the Force at the moment is not as we expected it to be. A fortnight ago when the Canadian offer was made to the Secretary-General it was of an infantry battalion, as you know. And that was accepted very gratefully by the Secretary-General and the Commanding Officer, who had been appointed by then and who is a Canadian (which would have some bearing on Egyptian objections). And we were told at that time that we would be performing a very useful service if we could move that regiment down to the sea coast, down to Halifax where it could be shipped on the "Magnificent", and steps were taken to do that at once. Then, as you know, the Secretary-General, went to Cairo. He there discussed a great many things about the Force, its functions and composition, with the Egyptian Government. That is quite understandable because after all this Force has to serve on Egyptian territory, and though I for one, and a good many others also, don't admit that the Egyptian Government could have a veto over the composition of the Force, I think the Secretary-General is very wise in consulting them and trying to get their co-operation. And when he did consult, he found that there was a reluctance on the part of the Egyptian Government to have such a large part of the infantry Force at the beginning consisting of Canadians.

Because the Egyptian Government thought it would create misunderstandings in Egyptian public opinion, which wasn't able easily to distinguish between various members of the Commonwealth, the Secretary-General, who has the decision in this matter, subject to the United Nations Assembly, was impressed by this point of view in respect of the immediate functioning of the Force. When he came back to New York, he discussed it with us and with General Burns who was here then. By that time General Burns had decided that the most important thing was to get his headquarters organized and his service troops out there --- signallers and that kind of thing -- and air transport, not only air transport for the Force, but the air component for the Force generally. And therefore he asked us if we would supply those units at once with the infantry to come along later when he felt it was possible to absorb them. By that time there shouldn't be any difficulty on anybody's part. I want to make it quite clear, however, that the participation of Canadians in this Force has been accepted by the Egyptian Government itself, that the Egyptian Government