

After the Reports had been received a draft resolution was put before the Assembly, sponsored by six delegations, those of Canada, Colombia, India, Norway, United States, and Yugoslavia:

*The General Assembly*

*Having received* the report of the Secretary-General "on basic points for the presence and functioning in Egypt of the United Nations Emergency Force",

*Having received also* the report of the Secretary-General on arrangements for clearing the Suez Canal,

1. *Notes with approval* the contents of the *aide-mémoire* on the basis for the presence and functioning of the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt, as annexed to the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Notes with approval* the progress so far made by the Secretary-General in connexion with arrangements for clearing the Suez Canal as set forth in his report;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to proceed with the exploration of practical arrangements and the negotiation of agreements so that the clearing operations may speedily and effectively be undertaken.

There were two draft resolutions now before the Assembly, one on withdrawal and the other on UNEF and the Canal. They were discussed at some length. Speaking on the afternoon of November 23 Mr. Pearson suggested that the draft resolution on withdrawal was unnecessary "at this time", while, of course, supporting the other draft resolution of which Canada was a sponsor. He said:

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), but, 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 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. But when a resolution deals with a matter on which action has begun in compliance with a former resolution, and when that compliance is under United Nations supervision, then I do not think, myself, that reference to the former resolution is positively helpful in achieving the objective which we have in mind. Indeed, it often merely takes up the time of the Assembly which, as in this case, could be surely used for the task of bringing about a settlement, the creation of an atmosphere within which progress could be made to such a settlement, and expediting the solution of practical problems, such as the clearing of the Suez Canal and the maintenance there of freedom and security for navigation for all countries.

It seems to me that the draft resolution which we have the honour to sponsor with other delegations (A/3386) is designed for this purpose. It "Notes with approval the contents of the *aide-mémoire* on the basis for the presence and functioning of the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt, as annexed to the report of the Secretary-General"—and I hope that we can give that approval to the *aide-mémoire*. It is important, however, in giving that approval, to know what we are approving.