

We obtained 57 votes as sponsors for the resolution. There were 19 abstentions. Nobody voted against us. The United Kingdom and France did not find it possible to vote for that resolution at that time but they have indicated, both privately and publicly, their great appreciation of the initiative which resulted in its being adopted and they have also stated their support for it since then. At the same time--and this is related to the first resolution--the Asian-Arab resolution was put to the vote and carried by a large majority, 59 to 5 opposed.

Mr. Churchill: How did Canada vote?

Mr. Pearson: Canada voted for that resolution asking for a cease-fire and a withdrawal of the forces from Egypt. There were 5 opposed. There were 59 in favour, including Canada. Then on November 4 we started to work, and we had something to do with this because we were the sponsors of the resolution and had a certain obligation in connection with helping the Secretary-General carry it out. We started to work on organizing a United Nations police force or at least to form the basis of the organization and report back in 48 hours.

As it happened the Secretary-General, who has played a magnificent part throughout all these difficult days, was able to make a first report within 24 hours. Offers of contributions to the force began to come in within that 24-hour period. That Sunday night when we were working on the establishment of the force the United Kingdom and French ground forces landed at Port Said. The situation at the United Nations immediately began to deteriorate. Things became very tense. The Security Council was called into emergency session and refused to consider a Soviet proposal for Soviet and United States intervention because the matter was before the United Nations Assembly. Then in the midst of rumours of Russian intervention, rumours that there would be a determined demand by the Arab and Asian members of the Assembly to brand the United Kingdom and France formally as aggressors under the Charter and to invoke sanctions against them, the Assembly met on Tuesday morning, November 6. It had before it the Secretary-General's final report on the organization of the United Nations force. At that time he was able to report progress with regard to the composition of the force. He was able to lay down certain principles and functions for that force but not to go into detail, for two reasons. He did not have enough time, in the first place; and in the second place if we had attempted to do it in detail, we would still be arguing about what those functions should be. There was however one important detail, namely that the force should exclude contingents from the permanent members of the Security Council. The significance of that detail is obvious.

A draft resolution was drawn up supporting this report and authorizing the Secretary-General to go ahead on that basis, to discuss participation with other governments. It set up also an Advisory Committee of seven members of the Assembly to help him in this task. Canada is one of the members of that committee.