

the legal position of Egypt under the Armistice Agreement. Any such "suitable balance" in particular must give the United Nations that control of internal security in the Gaza strip necessary to enable it to carry out effectively its operations and responsibilities on the demarcation line. So far as the Canadian Government is concerned, UNEF could not be expected to discharge effectively its duty of preventing raids and incursions and maintain peaceful conditions along that line if it were not in a position to carry out observations or investigations and to exercise necessary control in the strip itself. A satisfactory agreement to this effect is a fundamental prerequisite of the effective continuance of UNEF's role on the demarcation line. If no such agreement is made and kept, there will not only be renewed trouble between Israel and Egypt but the continued operation of UNEF will be prejudiced. Certainly it would be difficult for Canada to continue to participate in the Force under conditions, and we hope those conditions will not materialize, in which it would not be able to discharge satisfactorily the responsibilities given to it by the United Nations Assembly. We have made this position clear more than once to the Secretary-General and to the Advisory Committee in New York as recently as last week.

The Secretary-General is at the moment engaged in very important discussions with the governments immediately concerned. As yet we have had only a preliminary report concerning the discussions which are now going on in Cairo, but that report has been enough to cause us to question the accuracy of certain Cairo press messages about these talks.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure the House hopes, that these discussions will clear up the difficulties that face the United Nations in this area. Otherwise the results will be serious for United Nations' action there and perhaps even for peace between the conflicting states. At the conclusion of his talk the Secretary-General will report to the Committee of seven, of which Canada is a member, which will no doubt then consider in the light of that report whether a meeting of the full Assembly is required.

---

S/C