

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTEENTH SESSION
Official Records

**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE 96th
MEETING**



Tuesday, 28 October 1958,
at 3.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Mihai MAGHERU (Romania).

AGENDA ITEM 65

United Nations Emergency Force

1. The CHAIRMAN said that of the three parts of the item relating to the United Nations Emergency Force, sub-item (a) (Cost estimates for the maintenance of the Force) had been referred to the Fifth Committee. It had been suggested that the Committee should take up separately sub-item (b) (Progress report on the Force (A/3899)) and sub-item (c) (Summary study of the experience derived from the establishment and operation of the Force (A/3943)). The delegations of Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, Colombia, India, Norway and Pakistan had submitted a joint draft resolution on sub-item (b) (A/SPC/L.26).

2. Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. VOUTOV (Bulgaria), felt that sub-items (b) and (c) should be discussed together as they formed part of a whole.

3. Mr. ENGEN (Norway), supported by Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon), thought that for practical reasons it would be better to take the two sub-items separately. Sub-item (b) and the draft resolution on it had a limited and well-defined purpose. Sub-item (c) on the other hand raised wider and more complex questions relating to the future.

The Committee decided, by 31 votes to 9, with 18 abstentions, to take up sub-items (b) and (c) separately.

**(b) Progress report on the Force (A/3899,
A/SPC/L.26)**

4. Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon), introducing the joint draft resolution (A/SPC/L.26), said that, at its inception, the United Nations Emergency Force had been charged with the dual role of first securing and supervising the cease-fire and the withdrawal of armed forces from Egyptian territory and subsequently maintaining peaceful conditions in the area. Because of the circumstances in which it was established, the Force had been limited in its operations to the extent that consent of the parties concerned was required under generally recognized international law. The United Nations had not only had to obtain the concurrence of the States which provided contingents for the Force but also the consent of the Government of the country in which it was to operate.

5. The Emergency Force had successfully completed its task of securing and supervising the cease-fire and the withdrawal of armed forces. It was now continuing to maintain peaceful conditions in the area, through its deployment along the armistice demarcation line in the Gaza zone and along the international frontier to the south. The useful part which the Force had played in arresting the conflict which developed as result of the invasion of Egyptian territory by United Kingdom, French and Israel forces was well known. The Secretary-General's latest progress report (A/3899) showed that the Force's operations in the year under review had been as successful as those described on previous occasions. Virtually unbroken quiet had prevailed along the entire line between Egypt and Israel, and the Force was reported to be well-organized and functioning smoothly. Only 95 incidents, mostly of a minor nature, had occurred over a ten and a half month period, as compared with 184 incidents over the six and a half month period covered by the previous report. Relations between the Force and the local population were also reported to have been satisfactory.

6. The delegation of Ceylon wished to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered by the contingents from the eight contributing countries, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, India, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia, and also to express its appreciation and thanks to the Commander of the Force, Lieutenant-General E. L. M. Burns, for his successful conduct of the Force's peaceful operations. It also wished to thank the Secretary-General for his valuable report. The vigour and skill with which he had set about establishing the international force had contributed in no small measure to preventing the spread of the conflict.

7. The joint draft resolution referred only to the Secretary-General's progress report. Its sponsors felt that the Force should continue to help to maintain and strengthen peace in the area concerned. Since the Fifth Committee would have to deal with the financing of the Force's future operations, the draft resolution referred that aspect of the matter to the Fifth Committee for action. It was a simple and straightforward proposal and he hoped that all the members of the Committee would be able to vote in favour of it.

8. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that he would be glad to provide any clarifications of technical points that might be necessary in regard to the report. He also reminded the Committee that General Burns was at Headquarters. Apart from that, he would merely add his personal opinion that in present circumstances the interests of the United Nations were best served by the continuance of the Force as it had been established.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.