



First emergency special session

QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS
749TH AND 750TH MEETINGS HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 1956

Confirmation of the appointment of Major General E.L.M. Burns as
Chief of the United Nations Command for the Emergency
International Force

Note by the Secretary-General: The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the Members of the General Assembly a notice of confirmation of the appointment of Major General E.L.M. Burns as Chief of the United Nations Command for the Emergency International Force established under the General Assembly resolutions of 5 and 7 November 1956 (A/3290 and 3308), as well as the announcement of Colonel Byron V. Leary as Acting Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine. The notice includes biographical data regarding the two officers mentioned.

The Secretary-General today confirmed, in a telegram to Major General E.L.M. Burns, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., of Canada, his appointment as Chief of the United Nations Command for the emergency international Force established under the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 5 and 7 November. General Burns has been placed on leave of absence from his post of Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine. The Secretary-General at the same time appointed Colonel Byron V. Leary, U.S.M.C., as Acting Chief of Staff to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of General Burns.

General Burns was born in 1897 in Westmount, Quebec, and received his education at Lower Canada College, Montreal, Quebec, and the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.

He served during the First World War (1914-1918) with the Royal Canadian Engineers and was awarded the Military Cross in 1916. Between the wars he held various staff and regimental posts in the permanent force and was President of the

Canadian Institute of Survey, 1936-1937, and an associate member of the Committee for Survey Research of the National Research Council. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his services in air survey development.

During the Second World War (1939-1945), General Burns held various senior staff appointments and commands. In Italy, he commanded the 5th Canadian Armoured Division in January-February 1944 and the 1st Canadian Corps during the operations in the Liri Valley when it broke through the Hitler line and during the operations on the Adriatic coast when it broke through the Gothic line and captured Rimini. Later, he was General Officer in Charge, Canadian Section, Headquarters 21st Army Group, in North-West Europe.

After serving as Director General of Rehabilitation, General Burns was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Veterans' Affairs in 1946, and Deputy Minister in July 1950.

General Burns was President of the Ottawa Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada and National President in 1952 and 1953. He attended the fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, 1949, as an alternate delegate for Canada.

General Burns was appointed Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine on 2 August 1954.

Colonel Byron V. Leary, the Acting Chief of Staff, was born in February 1916 in Massachusetts. He received his B.A. from Boston College in 1938 in economics. Between 1939 and 1950 he attended a number of Marine Corps courses, including that at the Air War College in Alabama. Colonel Leary began his career with the United States Marine Corps as a marine with a detachment on board ship. During the war he served as a combat pilot in the Pacific area with Marine Fighter Squadron 213. In addition he has held many commands and staff appointments. He joined the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization on 14 July 1956 as Assistant Chief of Staff.

Among other awards, Colonel Leary holds the Legion of Merit (with combat V), the Distinguished Flying Cross, and has been awarded the Air Medal five times.