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

First report of the Secretary-General on the plan for an
emergency international United Nations force requested
in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on
4 November 1956 (A/3276)

1. In the resolution of 4 November 1956 (A/3276), concerning an emergency international United Nations force, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to submit to it within forty-eight hours a plan for the setting up, with the consent of the nations concerned, of such a force in order to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in accordance with all the terms of the resolution of 2 November 1956 (A/3256). In pursuance of this request I have the honour to submit this first report.
2. In the course of the day I consulted the representatives of various Member States in order to explore the possibility of assistance from those countries in the setting up of a United Nations force. The contacts will be continued, and the Assembly will be informed about the results in my final report. I am, however, in a position to state that, among the representatives so far consulted, the representatives of Colombia and Norway have, on behalf of their Governments, accepted participation in the projected force. The representative of New Zealand has confirmed the declaration to the same effect that he made in the Assembly debate on 3 November 1956. Other representatives have submitted the question to their Governments with their recommendation.
3. In the course of my consideration of the matter I have arrived at the conclusion that a step which should be taken immediately is the setting up of a United Nations Command for the purpose in question. The first elements of such

a Command can be drawn from the staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. If the General Assembly were to decide on the immediate establishment of a United Nations Command, the decision, therefore, could be put partially into effect without any delay.

4. In accordance with the view just expressed, I submit that the General Assembly, without waiting for my final report, should now decide that a United Nations Command for "an emergency international force to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in accordance with all the terms" of its resolution of 2 November 1956 (A/3256), be established; that the Assembly should further appoint, on an emergency basis, Major General E.L.M. Burns, at present Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, to be Chief of the new Command; that General Burns, in that capacity, should be authorized immediately to organize a small staff by recruitment from the observer corps of the Truce Supervision Organization of a limited number of officers, drawn from countries which are not permanent members of the Security Council; that, further, General Burns should be authorized, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to recruit directly from various Member States, with the same limitation, the additional number of officers of which he may be in need; and that the Secretary-General should be authorized to take such administrative measures as would prove necessary for the speedy implementation of this decision.

5. In the continuing consultations which, in my view, will be considerably facilitated in case the General Assembly would decide immediately on the establishment of a United Nations Command, I would try to determine from which countries the necessary troops might be drawn without delay, as well as from which countries recruitment may be possible for a somewhat later stage. For both stages I would endeavour to develop a plan where, as a matter of principle, troops should not be drawn from countries which are permanent members of the Security Council.

6. The first of the stages referred to seems in a natural way to coincide with the stage directly envisaged in the resolution of 4 November 1956 (A/3275). The later stage is likely to correspond to a period where the functions would be of a

somewhat different nature, and should be viewed in the light of efforts of a longer range. While mentioning this point in the present report I reserve my right to elaborate the considerations, briefly mentioned here, in my final report.

7. In keeping with the terms of the resolution, the explorations, undertaken in order to establish the requested plan, are concerned only with the situation which would follow from the implementation of the General Assembly resolution of 2 November 1956.
