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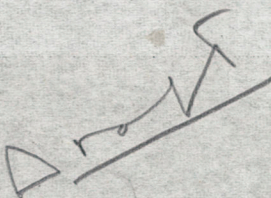
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27 Nov. 56

Text of Statement by D.H. to the Press.



27 November 1956

The United Nations Emergency Force has now been in Egypt for just short of two weeks. By means of the daily airlift from Naples, first by the Swissair aircraft which were indispensable to the operation in the early days and now by the Canadian and Italian planes, the Force steadily grows both in personnel and in the vehicles, equipment and supplies available to it.

As of Tuesday, 27 November, a total of approximately 4,500 officers and men have been accepted from eight of the twenty-three states which have offered military units to the Force. Of this total, on that date, 1374 were in Egypt, of whom 1,184 were at Abu Sueir and 190 at Port Said. Most of those at Abu Sueir are scheduled to be deployed without delay to Port Said and Port Fuad (where at least a thousand will be stationed, with the Scandinavians predominating) and the El Cap-El Qantara sectors.

On the twenty-seventh, also, there were 514 officers and men at the Naples staging area of Capodichino, and 1,097 were en route to Naples and Port Said by air and sea. By the end of this week, that is by December 1, on the basis of the airlift schedule, which thus far has been maintained remarkably well, it is expected that close to 2,700 officers and men, well armed and equipped, will be deployed in the canal area.

Within a fortnight, ~~or by December 12th~~, virtually all elements of the Force activated to date will have been lifted to Capodichino or Egypt. By that date the Force in Egypt should number approximately 4,100, with some 300 air personnel stationed at Naples.

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after a period
It may be added that ~~by December 12th,~~ this will be an organised military force, with a Headquarters and Staff under the command of General Burns as Commander of the Force, with two armoured car companies, and with necessary supporting units, including medical, engineer, transport, signal, supply, workshop, provost and post units and other Army Service elements.

This is the projection of the Force in the days immediately ahead. What size it may ultimately need to be can be better judged in the light of developments and the assessment of the Commander of the Force as to his requirements in carrying out the mandates of the General Assembly. Provisionally, our target is two combat brigades. In this regard, it may be pointed out that given the experience of the Force thus far, admittedly limited though it is, and the reception it has received in the area of its operation, the UNEF, in terms of potential effectiveness in performing its mission, must be rated as equivalent to a substantially larger military body.

It may be added that after a fortnight, this will be an organised military force, with a Headquarters and Staff under the command of General Burns as Commander of the Force, with two armoured car companies, and with necessary supporting units, including medical, engineer, transport, signal, supply, workshop, provost and post units and other Army Service elements.

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27 November 1956

The Secretary-General intends to make the following statement to the Press at 3 o'clock New York time, Wednesday, 28 November 1956. He can take into account any observations made before 2 o'clock the same day.

"The United Nations Emergency Force has now been in Egypt for just short of two weeks. By means of the daily airlift from Naples, first by the Swissair aircraft which were indispensable to the operation in the early days and now by the Canadian and Italian planes, the Force steadily grows both in personnel and in the vehicles, equipment and supplies available to it.

As of Tuesday, 27 November, a total of approximately 4,500 officers and men have been accepted from eight of the twenty-three states which have offered military units to the Force. Of this total, on that date, 1,374 were in Egypt, of whom 1,184 were at Abu Sueir and 190 at Port Said. Most of those at Abu Sueir are scheduled to be deployed without delay to Port Said and Port Fuad (where at least a thousand will be stationed, with the Scandinavians predominating) and the El Cap-El Qantara sectors.

On the twenty-seventh, also, there were 514 officers and men at the Naples staging area of Capodichino, and 1,097 were en route to Naples and Port Said by air and sea. By the end of this week, that is by December 1, on the basis of the airlift schedule, which thus far has been maintained remarkably well, it is expected that close to 2,700 officers and men, well armed and equipped, will be deployed in the canal area.

Within a fortnight virtually all elements of the Force activated to date will have been lifted to Capodichino or Egypt. By that date the Force in Egypt should number approximately 4,100, with some 300 air personnel stationed at Naples.

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The Secretary-General intends to make the following statement to the Press at 3 o'clock New York time, Wednesday, 28 November 1956. He can take into account any observations made before 2 o'clock the same day.

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As of Tuesday, 27 November, a total of approximately 4,500 officers and men have been accepted from eight of the twenty-three states which have offered military units to the Force. Of this total, on that date, 1374 were in Egypt, of whom 1,184 were at Abu Sueir and 190 at Port Said. Most of those at Abu Sueir are scheduled to be deployed without delay to Port Said and Port Fuad (where at least a thousand will be stationed, with the Scandinavians predominating) and the El Cap-El Qantara sectors.

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Within a fortnight virtually all elements of the Force activated to date will have been lifted to Capodichino or Egypt. By that date the Force in Egypt should number approximately 4,100, with some 300 air personnel stationed at Naples.

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It may be added that after a fortnight, this will be an organised military force, with a Headquarters and Staff under the command of General Burns as Commander of the Force, with two armoured car companies, and with necessary supporting units, including medical, engineer, transport, signal, supply, workshop, provost and post units and other Army Service elements.

This is the projection of the Force in the days immediately ahead. What size it may ultimately need to be can be better judged in the light of developments and the assessment of the Commander of the Force as to his requirements in carrying out the mandates of the General Assembly. Provisionally, our target is two combat brigades. In this regard, it may be pointed out that given the experience of the Force thus far, admittedly limited though it is, and the reception it has received in the area of its operation, the UNEF, in terms of potential effectiveness in performing its mission, must be rated as equivalent to a substantially larger military body."