

1833rd MEETING

Held in New York on Thursday, 24 July 1975, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Eugenio PLAJA (Italy).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Costa Rica, France, Guyana, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1833/Rev.1)

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. The situation in the Middle East:
Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Emergency Force (S/11758)

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Expression of welcome to the representative of the United States of America

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Before the Security Council proceeds to its agenda, I should like personally and on behalf of Council members to express our warmest welcome to our new colleague on the Council, the representative of the United States, Mr. Moynihan, who has in fact already made an important contribution to the work of the Council in the course of the unofficial meetings that have taken place in the past few days. The very late hour at which we held our last meeting, the first in which he officially participated, made it impossible for me to welcome him formally. The Council is gratified to count among its members Mr. Moynihan, a university professor of established prestige whose vast diplomatic experience will doubtless be of great benefit to our work.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East: Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Emergency Force (S/11758)

2. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): In accordance with the terms of the relevant Articles of the Charter and the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the representatives of Egypt

and Israel have asked to participate in the Council's debate of the matter of which it is seized. In accordance with the usual practice of the Council and with the provisions of article 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, I intend, with the consent of the Council, to invite the representatives of Egypt and Israel to participate in the debate, without the right to vote.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Abdel Meguid (Egypt) and Mr. Doron (Israel) took places at the Council table.

3. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): It will be recalled that at its 1832nd meeting, held on 21 July 1975, the Security Council approved the text of an appeal addressed to the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt [see S/11771]. In accordance with my intention indicated at the end of that meeting, I immediately transmitted that appeal to President Anwar El-Sadat through the representative of Egypt to the United Nations.

4. Yesterday I received the Egyptian reply, the text of which was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt [*ibid.*]. On behalf of the Council I should like to express my appreciation to the Government of Egypt for that positive response.

5. Furthermore, may I draw the attention of members of the Council to the draft resolution contained in document S/11774/Rev.1. During consultations among the members of the Council, an agreement was reached on this draft resolution. It was also agreed among the members that this draft should immediately be put before the Council for approval, and that representatives wishing to speak would do so after the vote.

6. I shall therefore now put to the vote the draft resolution S/11774/Rev.1 before the Council.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

The draft resolution was adopted by 13 votes to none.¹

Two members (China and Iraq) did not participate in the voting.

7. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Before calling on the first representative, I call on the Secretary-General, who wishes to make a brief statement.

circumstances in which the Council found itself this time in renewing the mandate of UNEF. Therefore I shall limit my remarks to summarizing how the Italian delegation has envisaged the situation with which the Council has had to deal.

168. In brief, I would say that the letter addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Secretary-General has put the question of the renewal of the mandate of UNEF in a different form with respect to the past, in view of the fact that the presence of the Force, under its terms of reference in accordance with the Charter, requires the continuing consent of the parties. This situation has placed on the Council the responsibility of finding the most appropriate way of reaching a solution.

169. In so doing, the Council has been working in close contact with the Secretary-General, who is himself particularly involved because of the responsibilities entrusted to him in relation to UNEF. Thanks also to his advice—for which I as President am extremely grateful—the Council was eventually able to take an unusual step to face an unusual situation, by deciding to send an appeal to the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The positive response of the Egyptian Government to this appeal has paved the way to today's resolution, and my delegation has welcomed it as a new demonstration of the Egyptian desire to proceed on the road towards peaceful solutions.

164. The PRESIDENT: I should like, before calling on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply, to address a few words to the Council. Some members have kindly referred to the results which the President was able to obtain in dealing with the delicate question that we have been considering in the past few days. I warmly thank them, but let me add that, if what the President has done has gratifyingly met with some success, this is due primarily to the help and co-operation of all the members of the Council—for which I am very grateful.

165. I should like now to make a short statement in my capacity as representative of ITALY.

166. The Italian delegation has examined with the utmost attention all the elements which were provided to the Council, that is to say, the report of the Secretary-General, the letter addressed on 14 July 1975 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Secretary-General, and the letter of the representative of Israel of 16 July 1975 confirming the consent of his Government to the renewal of the mandate of UNEF. I have also followed with special interest the statements of the representatives of Egypt and Israel and of the members of the Council.

167. Some of the members who preceded me in this debate have already underlined the peculiarity of the

170. The peculiar circumstances which I have just mentioned emphasize more than ever some fundamental aspects of the question we are dealing with. The possibility—rather, the danger—that the Force might be withdrawn from the area should lead us once again to ponder both the limitations and the importance of the Force.

171. It must be first of all reaffirmed, even though it has been said repeatedly in the past—and I myself stated it on 17 April in the debate in the Council [1821st meeting]—that UNEF, as well as all other peace-keeping forces, is not a solution in itself. It is certainly not aimed at perpetuating the separation between the parties, nor at covering a stalemate in the search for a solution of the basic problem which necessitated the creation of the Force itself. The limited function of the Force is to provide time and opportunity for negotiations by maintaining an atmosphere that will allow the parties to translate into facts the intentions to progress along the road of peace they continue to express.

172. Needless to say, Italy does whatever it can to encourage these intentions. Both Egypt and Israel can be sure that any constructive contribution from either side will continue to be received by my Government, as in the past, with satisfaction and appreciation.

173. However, the situation which the Council has faced on this occasion underlines how grave and dangerous the situation in the Middle East continues to be. The report of the Secretary-General stresses again that without the presence of the Force peace in the area would run serious risks.

174. These considerations inspired the Italian delegation in the consultations which took place in the past few days, as we have always kept in mind as a firm point the desirability of extending the mandate. For this reason my delegation has cast its vote in favour of the resolution. The recent events profoundly intensify our sense of urgency. The renewal of the mandate offers a new opportunity to all the parties engaged in the search for progress towards peace. All those who can contribute must make a new effort to encourage and help the parties involved to overcome their differences and get over a situation which is basically contrary, first of all, to their own interests. In this framework, Italy follows with the greatest interest and hope the renewed effort of the Government of the United States to obtain progress towards an agreement, as well as all other efforts leading, eventually in the framework of the Geneva Conference, to the negotiation of the basis of a just and lasting peace in the area.

175. I should like to conclude my brief remarks with a tribute to UNEF. The present debate has reminded us how delicate and important their duty is. I would therefore express once again the gratitude of the Italian delegation to the contingents which constitute the Force, as well as to all the countries and individuals that are participating in the operation.