

Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine, the United Nations Military Observation Group in Kashmir, and the costs of maintaining the Korean War Cemetery.

The 1962 Assembly also decided that a special session should be convened in mid-1963 for the sole purpose of dealing with the problem of financing peace-keeping operations. Among the more important decisions of the fourth special session was agreement on five basic principles to govern the financing of future operations, the most important of which was that of collective responsibility for meeting the costs of such operations.

Developments in 1964

The possibility of a showdown over peace-keeping financing moved perceptibly closer to reality on January 1, 1964, the beginning of the United Nations fiscal year. On that date the arrears of the Soviet Union, six of its Eastern European allies and a handful of other states exceeded for the first time "the amount of the contributions due from [each] for the preceding two full years". The total arrears owed to the United Nations now exceeded \$126 million. Ninety per cent of that sum represented unpaid assessments to the UNEF and ONUC accounts of previous years. The arrears of the Soviet bloc amounted to more than \$85 million, of which over \$64 million had been incurred by the Soviet Union alone.

No immediate crisis was precipitated. The Article 19 penalty, and thus the wrangle over the applicability of Article 19, did not arise unless and until the General Assembly was in session. The eighteenth session of the General Assembly had adjourned two weeks before and the nineteenth was not scheduled to begin for some nine months. There was, however, little disposition to dispute the significance of the January 1 deadline and diplomatic activity directed at a pre-Assembly settlement intensified. Believing that agreement over the future would facilitate a settlement of the past, Canada joined with the United States and Britain in urging the Soviet Union and France to agree on radical new procedures to govern the authorization and financing of future peace-keeping operations. The proposal was rejected.

The problems raised by the past — the accumulated arrears and the penalty to be imposed on the significant defaulters — began to loom as large as the longer-term problem of devising equitable and adequate procedures for financing future operations. Faced amongst other factors by the threat that there would be a challenge over the Soviet right to vote when the Assembly next met, the membership agreed to postpone the opening of the nineteenth session from the customary mid-September date until mid-November. Members of the Working Group of 21, meeting mainly in informal sessions,