

for UNEF and the Congo Force were legal expenses of the United Nations. The Court's advisory opinion confirmed the contention of Canada and like-minded states that all members were obligated to pay their share of those costs. At the forthcoming Assembly, this authoritative opinion should be fully endorsed and should form the basis for the future financing of the two peace-keeping operations.

It is incontestable that the United Nations should be provided with adequate resources and sound financial methods, if it is to discharge its responsibilities in various field of activity. There can be no grounds for having the organization financed largely by contributions from a few of the wealthier states, while others with a capacity to pay refuse to do so. This is not only a question of legal obligation and collective responsibility. It is ordinary common sense.

It is also common sense that the members should firmly support the Secretary-General in his efforts to implement the decisions and recommendations of the various organs. U Thant has shown great courage and wisdom during the course of his interim term of office. His direction of Congo affairs and his participation in the negotiations which led to the agreement on West New Guinea have won him general approval. His re-appointment for a full term would be welcomed by Canada for this would ensure stability in the executive office of the United Nations.

Laos Problem

In July, an international agreement calling for the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Laos was signed in Geneva by 14 nations directly concerned with the question. Canada was one of them, in its capacity as a member of the International Commission charged with the task of seeing that the agreement is carried out. Canada will endeavour to fulfill its responsibilities in this regard with fairness and diligence, but success will depend on the continuing support and co-operation of all the governments concerned. This is essential to the peace and stability of Indochina and Southeast Asia generally.

These steps toward peace and international order are encouraging. They show that the path of negotiation may be tortuous but not always impassable. But what about the major issues which divide East and West?

Berlin remains what it has been for years, a situation in which vital Western interests are at stake. If the Soviet Union does not recognize that the Western powers are determined to defend those interests and if it persists in taking unilateral action which threatens the position of the West, the danger of explosion could be real and imminent.