

Canada and 19 co-sponsors successfully introduced a resolution whereby the General Assembly accepted the opinion of the Court. A complementary resolution called for the re-establishment of the Working Group, augmented to 21 members, to resume the examination begun in 1961 to find an acceptable method for financing peace-keeping operations.

Canada continues to serve on the Working Group (which met from January 29 to March 31, 1963), which is intended to prepare the ground for a special session of the General Assembly, scheduled to meet before June 30, 1963, for the purpose of considering the financial situation of the United Nations. By that time, at the present rate of expenditure, the organization's funds will be virtually exhausted, a fact which underlines the importance of the proceedings on financial questions. It also has a bearing on the question of continuing United Nations peace-keeping operations at their present scale, particularly in the Congo. In accepting his new appointment, U Thant emphasized the seriousness of these budgetary matters and appealed to all members to assist in reaching a solution.

This survey is intended to illustrate in broad terms the scope of United Nations activity in 1962 and the political atmosphere in which the organization was called upon to carry out its functions. It is, in a sense, a preface to the following chapters, which deal in detail with the actual activities of the various organs, agencies and subsidiary bodies. By the end of the year, the United Nations had reasserted its claim to be the only existing instrument with the capacity for international co-operation and conciliation on a world-wide scale. Even in the face of long-standing limitations and difficulties of a temporary but formidable nature, the organization had once more proved its worth as a means of assisting member states to find the path toward peaceful solutions. Nevertheless, those difficulties remain and some of them at least threaten the survival of the United Nations as an effective and dynamic international organization. The financial problems are certainly in need of urgent solution, but there are others with equally far-reaching implications. Constitutional adjustments may soon be needed to meet the demands of enlarged membership. The remaining colonial issues will not be easily resolved. The question of racial discrimination, particularly in South Africa, seems no nearer solution, despite heavy pressure from the African states for drastic though impracticable measures, including the highly contentious demand for economic and diplomatic sanctions.

On the whole, during 1962 United Nations members showed a preference for restraint, patience and the pursuit of constructive ends. As the year drew to a close, notwithstanding the uncertainties of the future, the organization found itself in a position of enhanced prestige and authority which served to increase confidence about its continuing role in international affairs.