

In the past the shortfalls had been covered by borrowing from the \$25 million Working Capital Fund (now depleted) and the reserve accounts of United Nations voluntary funds, such as the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Since these sources were rapidly drying up, and since the Assembly had as yet not provided funds for the 1961 costs of ONUC, it appeared that the Secretary-General might be forced before the resumed session to seek short-term loans from governments. It was not known, however, whether any governments were either willing or in the possession of the necessary legal authority to lend money to the Organization. In view of these doubts, the Secretary-General requested authority from the fifteenth session to borrow from private banks but this request, although it was approved by the Fifth Committee, did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority in plenary.

Another very important and related issue discussed by the Fifth Committee was the extent to which the Secretary-General should be allowed to spend money in the field of peace and security without the concurrence of a special session of the General Assembly. Under current practice the Secretary-General, following a directive from the Security Council, may legally spend an unlimited amount provided he receives the concurrence of the nine-member Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. As a result, when the fifteenth session convened in September, the General Assembly had been faced with a bill of about \$40 million in respect of the costs of ONUC. The Soviet bloc and other delegations argued that in future a special session should be called for any expenditures exceeding \$2 million or \$5 million. Other delegations believed that such a procedure would destroy the ability of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take prompt and effective action to maintain peace and security. The Fifth Committee devoted only a few hours to this important issue and decided to maintain the current practice pending a comprehensive review by the resumed session.

The Fifth Committee took a series of less important administrative and budgetary decisions among which the following deserve special mention. The Committee approved an appropriation of \$73 million in respect of the 1961 expenses of the Organization, exclusive of UNEF and ONUC. This figure represents an increase of about \$10 million over last year's figure. This increase results primarily from a strengthening of the Organization's permanent staff particularly in the economic and social field; an appropriation of \$3.5 million to provide assistance to meet the special transitory needs of the newly-independent states of Africa; and a substantial increase in pensions and other benefits payable to the United Nations staff.

Under urgings from Asian, African and Latin American Delegations, the Fifth Committee also decided to review at the sixteenth session the criteria for determining the number of posts on the staff of the Secretariat which (ideally) should be filled by the nationals of each member state.