

On March 19 and June 15, the Security Council reaffirmed its previous resolutions on Cyprus and renewed the mandate of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for three and six months respectively. At its meeting on December 17 to consider a further extension of the mandate, several members expressed their concern at the lack of progress in finding a political solution to the problem. Although they agreed that the Force could not be withdrawn, they noted the difficulty in financing it by voluntary contributions.¹ To avoid creating the impression that UNFICYP could be continued indefinitely and to emphasize the urgency of finding a political solution, they agreed that the mandate of the Force should be renewed only for three months and not for the six-month period recommended by the Secretary-General.

Rhodesia

The Rhodesian question was discussed in the Security Council in April and May and again in November upon Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of its independence.² The first meetings were called at the request of both the Special Committee on Colonialism and the representatives of 35 African states. They were, in part, prompted by the decision of the Rhodesian Government to hold elections on May 7 in order to obtain a strong popular mandate to support it in its negotiations with Britain for independence. Many of those who spoke in the Council were concerned that the elections appeared to point to a unilateral declaration of independence.

The representatives of Senegal and Algeria, who were permitted to participate in the Council's deliberations as spokesmen for the Organization of African Unity, stressed the unanimity of African views on the Rhodesian question, claimed that Britain had been negligent in allowing the current situation to develop, and expressed the fear that, if existing trends continued, Rhodesia would be transformed into another South Africa. They called for the immediate abrogation of the 1961 constitution, the convening of a constitutional conference and, if necessary, the use of force by Britain to assert its authority in Rhodesia and prevent a unilateral declaration of independence. The British representative, after reaffirming his Government's view that the Council had no competence to discuss Rhodesian affairs, said that British policy was based on three principles: first, that Britain must be satisfied that any basis for independence was acceptable to the people of the country as a whole; second, that a way forward must be sought by negotiation, not by

¹See also Page 2.

²See also Page 30 for the Assembly on the Rhodesian question.