

budget of the Organization. The discussion in the Fifth Committee indicated that there had been little shift in the positions taken at earlier sessions by the various states or groups of states.

The Soviet bloc continued its opposition to the Force and reiterated that it would not pay for an operation which it considered had been initiated in contravention of the Charter. The resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee authorized the Secretary-General to expend up to a maximum of \$19 million for the continuing operation of the Force during 1961. It made provision for a rebate of up to 50% on the assessment that the member states admitted during the fifteenth session were required to pay, and the assessment of all other member states receiving assistance during 1960 from the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The funds from member governments which did not avail themselves of the rebate offered, would be credited to the section of the 1961 budget of the Force for reimbursement to member states for equipment provided to the Force. This resolution was passed by the General Assembly by a vote of 50 in favour, including Canada, 8 against (the Soviet bloc) with 27 abstentions.

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Against the background of recent events in the Congo and of the admission to the United Nations of seventeen new independent states, colonial questions took on increased importance. The inscription of the "colonial item" on the agenda of the fifteenth session was not intended to cover any specific problem but rather to stress the inalienable right of all nations to enjoy self-government and independence. The declaration to be adopted was to be considered as of an historic value which would rank with the Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations.

The item was formally introduced by Mr. Khrushchov on September 23 and there was no opposition to its inscription. It was debated in plenary session without being referred to committee. The Communist bloc in taking the initiative hoped to win the friendship and gratitude of the independent governments and peoples of Africa and incidentally of black and coloured people in all countries. At the same time no doubt they hoped that Western powers not possessing colonies, would be compelled either to forswear their long association with the colonial powers or to join with them and support their declared sympathy for the independence and national aspirations of colonial peoples.

In introducing the item, the U.S.S.R. made an incendiary declaration condemning the colonial regime and calling for the independence "forthwith" of all colonial and trust territories. It became clear to the African and Asian members that the Soviet declaration would get little support and would only