

further and further into serious financial difficulty.

When the working group of fifteen on the examination of administrative and budgetary procedures met in 1961, it soon found that it too could make little progress in the absence of common understanding of the legal relationship between the costs of peace-keeping and Article 17(2) of the Charter. Accordingly, the working group recommended that the guidance of the International Court of Justice was an essential preliminary to the United Nations finding a satisfactory way out of its financial dilemma.

Subsequently at the Sixteenth Session of the General Assembly, discussion in the Fifth Committee confirmed that little could be accomplished in regard to the financing of peace-keeping activities in the absence of authoritative legal guidance. Accordingly the Delegations of Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Liberia, Pakistan, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States tabled a draft resolution which was adopted as resolution 1731 (XVI). By this decision, the Secretary-General was asked to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice as to whether the costs of the United Nations operations in the Middle-East and the Congo constituted expenses of the organization within the meaning of Article 17, Paragraph 2, of the Charter.

In response to the General Assembly's request, transmitted by the Secretary-General, the Court considered this question during the Spring and Summer of this year in the light of the oral and written statements of a number of Governments and all the relevant documents. On July 20 the Court handed down its advisory opinion which, to quote it in summary, found that "the expenses authorized in the General Assembly resolutions ...relating to the United Nations operations in the Congo ...(and) the UNEF ... constituted all expenses of the organization within the meaning of article 17, paragraph 2 of the Charter of the United Nations."

Now that the United Nations has this legal guidance, how should the Assembly react? In the past, it has been the usual practice in matters of this kind for the Assembly to honour in