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THE HIGH PRICE OF PEACE

On December 3, Brigadier J.H. Price, the Canadian representative on the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, introduced drafts of two resolutions dealing with the financing of the world organization. Referring to the item under which the two resolutions would be debated, Brigadier Price observed that "we are here presented with this Committee's most challenging opportunity to assist the United Nations to move toward a firmer foundation of orderly financial management". "I need hardly remind this Committee", he said, "of the extent to which the attempts to achieve an equitable and workable method of meeting the sometimes heavy costs of peace keeping have been hampered by differences of view on the basic legal aspects of the matter. These differences have, in large measure, been responsible for the unsatisfactory situation in which reliance on *ad hoc* arrangements has led the organization further and further into serious financial difficulty".

This emphasis on the urgent need to find a more suitable way of financing the peace-keeping tasks of the United Nations was maintained throughout Brigadier Price's address, which continued as follows:

"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 relation 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.

LEGAL GUIDANCE SOUGHT

"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, Britain, Cameroun, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Liberia, Pakistan, Sweden and the 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 "expenses of the organization" within

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