

Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, and the United Nations Children's Fund are among the most important. These essential activities have to be taken into account in assessing the level and balance of financial support given by member governments.

With the existing scarcity of human and material resources for meeting the vast requirements in the less-developed areas, the need for a clear emphasis on co-ordination and economy of effort is self-evident. There is a foreseeable limit to the amount of available resources, and no region or agency can expect an unreasonably large share. Every effort should be made to ensure that these resources are exploited in a manner calculated to produce maximum benefit for the nations in need of assistance. For these reasons, the contributing countries have intensified their efforts to achieve co-ordination and to make increasingly effective use of existing institutions and programmes. For them, this approach will be just as important as raising the level of economic and technical assistance during the Decade of Development, which began to take definite shape in 1962.

The growing demands for material assistance in the less-developed areas gave added point to the consideration of the problems of financing peace-keeping operations which continued to engage the anxious attention of the organization, and especially the General Assembly, during 1962. While the proceeds from the United Nations bond issue provided temporary financial relief, the prolonged and heavy financial burden in the Congo seriously undermined the budgetary structure of the organization and its capacity to act effectively in the field of peace and security and indirectly in other areas of activity. Pursuing its policy of recent years, Canada pressed vigorously for a comprehensive consideration of these growing problems of financing. The aim continued to be to protect the principle of collective responsibility, while recognizing the special position of the developing countries with low capacity to pay. It was hoped as well to exert pressure on the wealthier countries, notably the Soviet Union and France, which had not paid their assessed share of peace-keeping costs.

To some extent, efforts in the past have been frustrated, not only by deliberate obstruction on the part of members opposed to the United Nations peace-keeping operations but because of questions raised about the legal validity of the financial assessments apportioned by the General Assembly to meet peace-keeping costs. To deal with the legal arguments, Canada and like-minded members had pressed in 1961 for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice and, at its sixteenth session, the Assembly requested the Court's opinion on whether the peace-keeping costs for UNEF and ONUC should be treated as legal expenses of the organization within the meaning of Article 17 of the Charter. Canada participated in legal proceedings before the International Court, whose majority opinion of July 20, 1962, confirmed the affirmative view. Accordingly, at the seventeenth session,