

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

ONUC Finances

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Statement by Senator F.M. Blois, in the
Fifth Committee on March 28, 1961.

This Committee has already discussed at length the question of financing the Congo operation and my Delegation has already made known its views on the importance of this question to the development of this organization, if not to its very survival. My Delegation's views were given at some length in this committee on December 5 and elaborated subsequently. I do not intend to repeat now what I said then. However, nothing has happened to alter my Delegation's view that what we do here, or fail to do, will have implications for all aspects of the work of the United Nations. An organization which has to rely so heavily on short term measures to finance its daily regular work, as well as its all important peace keeping operations, is in grave danger of being permanently damaged as an instrument in which the member nations can place their trust and respect.

This Committee cannot approach its consideration of the financing of the Congo operation along narrow and restrictive lines. We must have constantly in mind that what is involved is the ability of the organization to discharge the tasks for which it was created. For Canada, as I am sure for all of us here, the purpose of the United Nations as a means to maintain international peace and security is all important. The United Nations role in economic development, in international cooperation at all levels throughout the widest range of human activities, has become a part of the national life of all members of the United Nations family. Yet the United Nations now finds itself in a position in which all this is threatened by the lack of increasingly more substantial amounts of money. For some states of course, it may well be a conscious policy to injure this instrument which the vast majority of us, the middle and smaller powers, have come to consider such a vital part of our national fabric. My Delegation firmly believes that the decisions we take here in financing the Congo operation will have far-reaching consequences. It is equally firmly determined that these consequences are in the direction of strengthening and upholding the United Nations rather than in the opposite, and also unfortunately possible, direction.

For the organization to survive and maintain the purposes as set down in Article 1 of the Charter, it must be able to do two things:

1. To answer the challenge of any situation which may threaten peace and security;
2. To maintain its answer to that challenge once it has been set into motion.

If the United Nations should fail in either of these respects, it is diminished and its end become but a matter of time. We have already seen the end of one world organization because of its inability to provide an effective answer in moments of crisis.

In formulating its views on how the committee might deal with the question before us, my Delegation has been struck by the indivisibility of the position of ONUC finances from those of UNEF