

our approach is both positive and realistic. Furthermore, I believe that the approach in our resolution meets a growing interest on the part of many Member States in the possibility of achieving some forward movement on peacekeeping at this 21st General Assembly. I hope that our draft resolution will be so regarded and understood by all members of this Committee.

The preamble in our view is one which should not give difficulty to any Member State. We are not trying in the preamble to swing the balance of opinion on constitutional questions in any particular direction. Our purpose is to state clearly the situation as it exists without prejudging positions of principle of any Member State. We believe that the language used in this section of the resolution is consistent with the Charter and indeed is based on the Charter. It also reflects views expressed by a wide variety of Delegations in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and elsewhere.

Operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this draft resolution deal with financing, and particularly with the financing of peacekeeping operations involving heavy expenditures. Operative paragraph 1 states in a factual form without prejudging the question of authorization the methods of financing which may be used. Operative paragraph 2 expresses the view, already widely held, that in the event of a major peacekeeping operation apportionment should be done "in a manner which would provide for the equitable sharing" of the costs involved. This operative paragraph also suggests three considerations of which due account should be taken. Once again we believe these considerations are generally acceptable to virtually all Member States.

In the third operative paragraph the draft resolution further expresses the view that the equitable sharing of costs of a particular peacekeeping operation involving heavy expenditures might be achieved by means of a special scale which would establish that the economically less-developed countries would contribute 5% of the total costs, with the balance of the costs to be borne by other Member States. It seems to my Delegation, Mr. Chairman, that the very least we can do at this Assembly is to suggest a guideline for the financing of future major peacekeeping operations. We cannot make it mandatory for the appropriate U.N. organ to make use of this guideline but surely as an Assembly we are entitled to put on record what we think is an equitable approach - one which would provide a somewhat more reliable basis for financing than has existed in the past, and which takes account of the relatively limited capacity of economically less-developed States to contribute. I realize that the proposal in this paragraph is quite different from that in the Irish proposal in draft resolution A/SPC/L.129 which is designed to restore mandatory assessments. There is in our view a considerable distance yet to be covered in our deliberations between the practicable and the desirable. It is our view that what we propose in this draft resolution on the