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THE COUNCILS, THE COURT AND THE SECRETARIAT

Security Council

The Security Council has the primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security; its functions, therefore, are divided mainly between the pacific settlement of disputes and action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. Until and including 1965, its decisions were made by an affirmative vote of any seven of its total of 11 members, including the concurring votes of the five permanent members of the Council, though decisions on procedural matters required only a majority of any seven members.¹ If a member is a party to a dispute referred to the Council, it is required to abstain from voting with respect to measures for the pacific settlement of the dispute. In 1965, the Security Council was composed of Britain, China, France, the U.S.S.R. and the United States as permanent members, and Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Uruguay as non-permanent members.

By September 1, 1965, the required number of member states had ratified the amendment to the Charter enlarging the Security Council to 15 members by increasing the number of its non-permanent seats from six to ten. Of these four additional members, two were to be chosen initially for a term of one year and, of the ten non-permanent seats, five were assigned to the Afro-Asian group, one to the Eastern European group, two to the Latin American group and two to the Western European and Other States group. In December 1965, the General Assembly elected Argentina, Bulgaria and Mali to succeed Bolivia, Malaysia and the Ivory Coast, and Japan, Nigeria, New Zealand and Uganda to the four additional seats, with the latter two receiving one-year terms only. Jordan continues on the Council for 1966, as it had been

¹Under the amendment to the Charter enlarging the Council, nine rather than seven votes are required effective January 1, 1966, in each case.