

The discussions on financing were political in tone, although they took place in the Assembly's Budgetary Committee, and the differing opinions on the substance of the Congo problem were reflected in the attitudes of the member states toward providing funds for the operation. The resolution which emerged, while setting up a special account for ONUC and for 1960 only, recognized that the expenses of the Congo operation constituted "expenses of the Organization" within the meaning of the Charter and that the assessment thereof was a binding legal obligation on member states to pay their assessed share.

In spite of this recognition of obligation, the Soviet Union and its allies maintained their refusal to pay anything into the ONUC account. A few other states, including France, also indicated that they would not contribute.

Early in the session, notwithstanding a unanimous decision of the General Assembly not to seat any delegation from the Congo until the Credentials Committee had considered the matter, Guinea, later joined by a group of African and Asian delegations, had circulated a document calling for the immediate seating of Representatives of the Central Government of the Congo. No concerted effort was made to have this resolution considered by the General Assembly until early November when, largely on the initiative of the U.S.S.R., a full debate on the situation in the Congo was scheduled. This request for a debate coincided with the circulation of a report by the Secretary-General's Representative in the Congo describing the seriousness of the situation in that country and the difficulties being faced by the United Nations in discharging its responsibilities there.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on the Congo had decided to despatch to the Congo a Conciliation Commission composed of representatives from the fifteen African and Asian countries represented on the Advisory Committee. In the light of this decision and perhaps influenced by President Kasavubu's visit to New York, where he addressed the General Assembly and asked for the seating of a delegation nominated by him, the Representative of Ghana proposed the adjournment of the discussion of the situation in the Congo until the Conciliation Commission had gone to the Congo and reported back. This adjournment motion, on which Canada abstained from voting, was adopted by a substantial majority. Subsequently, however, the Credentials Committee met, on the initiative of the United States, and recommended that the credentials of the delegation nominated by President Kasavubu be accepted. After several days of debate this recommendation was adopted by the Assembly by a vote of 53 in favour to 24 against, with 19 abstentions (including Canada). Canada abstained from voting on this resolution and on a series of procedural resolutions related thereto, primarily in view of Canada's membership on the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on the Congo.

The sense of crisis in the Congo was intensified shortly thereafter with the escape from Leopoldville of Mr. Lumumba and his subsequent arrest.