

Delegations will recall that the working group of fifteen was originally established by resolution 1620 at the Fifteenth Session to study methods of covering the costs of peace-keeping operations and the relationship between such methods and existing administrative and budgetary procedures of the organization. Members of the working group of Fifteen were: Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and United States. Governments which served on the working group were appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in accordance with a formula for regional representation set out in resolution 1620 (XV). Resolution 1620 also requested member states to submit their observations on the principles to be applied in determining a special scale of assessments for peace and security and other matters. These observations and other matters before the working group were discussed during two series of meetings in the Spring and Fall of 1961. However, the working group was unable to come to an agreement on all the principles and elements involved in financing peace-keeping operations. This lack of agreement was clearly illustrated in its report to ^{the} Sixteenth Session (Document A/4971). As I have previously mentioned, one serious impediment to agreement was the difference of opinion over the legality of the financial obligations of member states in respect of the costs of UNEF and ONUC. In view of the Court's very clear advisory opinion, the co-sponsors of Document L.761 are convinced that it is as possible as it is desirable, to move ahead to find an orderly and acceptable solution to covering the future costs of peace-keeping operations. This then is the background against which the Delegations of Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Liberia, Pakistan, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States have tabled draft resolution L.761.

That draft recognizes that peace-keeping operations such as UNEF and ONUC can impose a heavy financial burden on all member states and in particular on those having a limited capacity to contribute.