

of artillery and tank fire and attacks by Israeli aircraft on ground targets before the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was able to bring about a cease-fire. The report by UNTSO, to which Canada is a major contributor, indicated that both sides had some responsibility for the gravity of the incident and made various recommendations to prevent its recurrence, including the completion of previous survey work on the position of the road in dispute. A Moroccan resolution strongly condemning the Israeli air action failed to obtain approval because eight members abstained, while a British and United States resolution deploring the incident and endorsing the recommendations made by UNTSO was vetoed by the Soviet Union.

Congo

After the withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in the Congo, Congolese rebels extended their control over a large section of the north-east part of the country, capturing, in the process, Stanleyville and Paulis. Concerned about the fate of 2,000 Europeans held hostage in rebel hands, Belgium and the United States, with the prior approval of the Congolese Government, staged a military operation to save the hostages at the end of November 1964. Belgian paratroops were dropped by United States aircraft in Stanleyville on November 24 and in Paulis on November 26. They quickly gained control of the two cities, and the released hostage, including 24 Canadians, were flown to Leopoldville. Unfortunately, a number of hostages, including two Canadians, were killed by the rebel troops just before the arrival of the paratroops.

The intervention received much criticism, and 22 countries, 18 of them African, requested the Security Council to discuss the question. At the same time, the Government of Congo asked the Council to discuss the interference in its internal affairs by the United Arab Republic, Algeria, the Sudan, the Soviet Union and Communist China. Debate on these two issues, at times very bitter, took place in the Council during December. A number of African countries accused Belgium and the United States of intervening to save the lives of their own nationals without any regard for the lives of the innocent Congolese involved. They also expressed the view that the operation had been so timed as to ensure the capture of the city by forces of the Central Government who arrived a few hours after the paratroops landed. The Representatives of Britain and the United States defended the intervention, which they emphasized had been undertaken only for humanitarian purposes. The Council approved a moderate resolution which, among other things, requested all states to refrain from interfering or intervening