

Canada on Advisory Committee

For Canada's part we have attempted throughout the course of the United Nations involvement in the Congo to provide what assistance we can in the most appropriate manner open to us, in the form of technicians, emergency food supplies and medical aid. Because of Canada's contribution of non-combatant military personnel serving in the Congo, Canada has had a place on the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee. It has always been our intention to play what I might call a non-combatant role in that context as well. But without violating the confidential nature of the deliberations of the Committee, I think I can say, ... that we have found it to be for the most part not only a non-combatant committee but a thoroughly hard-working and constructive one.

Broad Financial Implications

I should now like to turn for a moment to some of the broad financial implications for the United Nations of operations such as that now being carried on in the Congo. The years since San Francisco have seen this organization assume increasingly extensive functions and responsibilities, in the economic and social as well as in the political fields. Step by step with this development, which all of us must welcome, the financial resources required have also swelled to magnitudes not contemplated in 1945. The regular annual budget for the United Nations alone already stands at some \$73 million. Quite apart from the resources made available to the International Bank, the International Development Association, and the International Monetary Fund, the total annual contributions to the United Nations Specialized Agencies, the Expanded Programme, and the Special Fund now total approximately \$250 million. To the strain of these commitments have been added in recent years the heavy demands of peace-keeping activities. These last, I need hardly add, lie close to the heart of the United Nations concept, and appear in the Charter as the first of the co-operative purposes which must guide us in the implementation of our responsibilities.

The United Nations in the Congo is the most complex and costly peace-keeping operation ever undertaken by this organization, and it has placed an unprecedented burden on the already strained financial resources available to the United Nations. So far, the operation has not been placed on a firm financial footing and temporary measures have had to be employed to obtain the necessary finances. These have involved heavy borrowing from the Working Capital Fund and from the reserves of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme. The result has been what is unquestionably the most critical financial crisis the organization has ever had to face.

In these circumstances, the Assembly's attention must be directed urgently to reaching a decision, on the estimates submitted for the Congo operation in 1961, which will ensure the continued financial health of the organization, and ensure also that its vital peace-keeping activities will not be jeopardized simply for want of the necessary financial means. To put it more bluntly, the question is whether the Congo operation will be allowed to succeed - whether, in other words, the organization is prepared to provide the financial resources required to implement its own decisions.