

formula for apportioning \$15 million of this expenditure among member states, the Government of the Congo (Leopoldville) having agreed to pay \$3.2 million of the amount needed to finance the operation.

The Assembly also took note on November 6 of the organization's financial reports and accounts for 1962 and of the report of the Board of Auditors, and approved without discussion the Fifth Committee's report and recommendations on vacancies to various administrative boards and tribunals. It also gave its unanimous approval, on November 11, to resolutions dealing with the effects of atomic radiation, the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the improvement of the methods of work of the General Assembly.

### **Improvement of the Assembly's Methods of Work**

On October 30, 1962, the Assembly decided to refer an item on this subject submitted by Tunisia to a committee composed of the President of the seventeenth session of the Assembly, Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, who served as its chairman, the 13 Vice-Presidents of the Assembly (the heads of the Delegations of Australia, Belgium, Britain, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Haiti, Jordan, Madagascar, Roumania, the U.S.S.R. and the United States), the three former Presidents of the Assembly who were members of their delegations to that session (Victor Andres Belaunde [Peru], Frederick H. Boland [Ireland] and Luis Padilla Nervo [Mexico]), as well as the head of the Tunisian Delegation.

The Assembly, in Resolution 1845(17) of December 19, 1962, extended the terms of office of the Committee and asked it to submit to the Secretary-General, by May 31, 1963, with recommendations or suggestions, a report on ways and means of improving the methods of work of the General Assembly, which might subsequently be circulated to member states.

In its report, the Committee recommended a series of measures for carrying out the work of the Assembly as speedily and efficiently as possible, such as a greater use of sub-committees and working groups to deal with agenda items in detail after the main points of view had been expressed. The experimental use of electric voting equipment for one or two years in one or more conference rooms was also proposed. Other suggestions included the establishment of work schedules for each committee and a greater co-ordinating role for the General Committee. Recommendations were finally made regarding the organization of sessions and the conduct of debates.

In its comments on the report of July 18, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that, should the Assembly decide to approve the proposal for mechanical voting, the system be introduced on an experimental basis for one year in one committee room. The Advisory Committee also suggested the possibility of carrying out preparatory work at the same time in the plenary hall and one other committee room, so as to permit eventual expansion of the system without undue expense if the experiment proved successful. Because of the financial implications of this problem, the matter was