

majority of Member States that in the present troubled state of the world, nothing should be done in the interval to improve the capacity of the United Nations to keep the peace.

Resolution B was adopted by the Special Political Committee on December 14 after a full discussion - I would say a very full discussion - of a number of proposals and principles. After a number of delays, to allow the maximum time for consultation and negotiations, the Special Political Committee reached the stage of voting on the proposals before it. Resolution B obtained the best vote of the various proposals in that Committee.

It is, Mr. President, a resolution which does not prejudice the position of any delegation. I cannot repeat this too often. The resolution in fact deliberately avoids imposing any unacceptable obligations on any Member State which does not share the view of the majority about the nature and value of the contribution that the United Nations has made, and can continue to make, through its peacekeeping activities. What the resolution has tried to do is first to provide some guidelines in the field of financing subject to further elaboration; second, to invite Member States to make information available about the forces and services which they might provide; and third, to make some recommendations to the Security Council including the consideration of what measures the Council could take to improve the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping purposes. All these elements, it seems to us, are in accordance with the Charter and can hardly be regarded otherwise by any examination of this resolution on its merits.

Surely through the years nothing has been more clearly demonstrated by experience than the need for peacekeeping. The resolution now submitted is designed to carry forward, without prejudice to the position of any delegation, the efforts of this Organization to maintain international peace and security in support of the United Nations Charter.

We would hope that efforts which have been made to prevent or postpone a decision being taken during this General Assembly, or to affect it by statements implying the withholding of co-operation by some delegations, will not alter the determination of those who have already voted in favour and may now be prepared to vote in favour of the essential and constructive steps for which resolution B provides.

Mr. President, we all recognize, with great regret, that no consensus is provided for under resolution B on the peace-keeping provisions of the Charter. However, provision is made under resolution B that efforts should continue in the Committee of 33 to seek such a consensus. In the meantime, the General Assembly is