

Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

In addition to an acceptable method of financing peace-keeping operations, a number of member states, including Canada, considered that the methods and machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes should be examined.¹ They therefore welcomed a draft resolution submitted by Britain in the Special Political Committee which would have had the Assembly establish a study group of government representatives to consider this subject as a whole, both in its political and legal aspects, with particular attention being given to "the possibility of improved procedures for fact-finding, mediation and conciliation, the use of rapporteurs, and increased recourse to international arbitration and judicial settlement". In the debate on this question, which began late in the session, there was initially a considerable measure of support for the British proposal, but later some delegations argued that adequate procedures for the settlement of disputes already existed. In the end, a motion was approved by a vote of 48 in favour, 27 against (including Canada), with 8 abstentions, which postponed consideration of the proposal to the twenty-first session. The Canadian Delegation, which regarded the procedural motion cutting off debate as a regrettable use of the rules of procedure, supported the British proposal, emphasized the relationship between peace keeping and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and suggested that the relationship between temporary and long-term solutions should be studied.

Inadmissibility of Intervention ²

A good many members considered that disputes would not arise in the first place if states did not interfere in the affairs of others and were, therefore, receptive to the idea of a draft declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention.³ The Soviet Union first proposed a declaration in the First Committee which would have the Assembly demand that armed or any other type of intervention in the domestic affairs of states, "as well as any acts directed against the just struggles of peoples for national independence and freedom", should be halted forthwith. However, in the debate that followed, a number of amendments were submitted which widened the Soviet draft considerably, to condemn, among other provisions, the initiation, promotion or support of subversion or terrorism; the infiltration of personnel and the clandestine supply of arms or other material; and "the use of measures of an economic

¹See also Page 38 for the related item on Friendly Relations.

²The full title of the item was "Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty".

³See also Page 38 for the related item on Friendly Relations.