

THE HIGH PRICE OF PEACE

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operations. This, then, is the background against which the Delegations of Britain, Cameroun, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Liberia, Pakistan, Sweden, and the United States have tabled Draft Resolution L.761.

"That draft recognizes that peace-keeping operations such as UNEF and ONUC can impose a heavy financial burden on all member states and in particular on those having a limited capacity to contribute.

"It also recalls Resolution 1620 (XV) by which the Assembly established a Working Group of Fifteen and notes that one of matters discussed by the Working Group was the desirability of requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court. The co-sponsors of this text think that, in order to facilitate the work of the Group, governments might wish to consider the desirability of appointing the same individuals as served on the Working Group in 1961. Furthermore, the sponsors feel that the original Working Group of Fifteen was of a desirable size to facilitate its work and that its composition was appropriate for its tasks.

"In preambular Paragraph 3, the co-sponsors have employed a procedure which has been utilized on a number of occasions in various committees. Since the co-sponsors of the draft resolution on the re-establishment of the Working Group view it and Draft Resolution L.760 (acceptance of the Court's opinion) as two related resolutions, directed towards attainment of the same ultimate objective, they have proceeded on the assumption that Draft Resolution L.760 will be adopted by the Assembly. If this is the Assembly's decision, the co-sponsors of the second draft, Document L.761, intend to submit a revision which would incorporate into the text the number of the resolution accepting the Court's opinion and its date.

"Operative Paragraph 1 would re-establish the Working Group of Fifteen with the same membership as that established by Resolution 1620. The Working Group is requested to consult, as appropriate, with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee on Contributions and to consider the methods of financing, in the future, peace-keeping operations of the United Nations involving heavy expenditures. The drafters of this resolution consider UNEF and ONUC to be operations which could be said to involve 'heavy' expenditures. Operative Paragraph 3 merely requests the Working Group to convene as early as possible in 1963 and to complete its report to the United Nations General Assembly as soon as possible, or not later than April 1, 1963. This would give the Working Group approximately three months to discuss the financing of peace-keeping operations before submitting its report.

"Some delegations might wonder how the co-sponsors expect the Working Group to reach agree-

ment in three months when the previous working group had over five months to study virtually the same question. We believe that there are several relevant factors in suggesting a date of April 1 for completion of the Group's report. These factors are: (1) At its previous meetings, the Working Group was able to outline various principles and issues which might provide the necessary elements for determining the methods of financing United Nations peace-keeping operations. Those principles and issues are listed in Paragraph 6 of Document A/4971. Therefore, the re-established Working Group should be able to build on the work of its predecessor and thus concentrate its attention on reaching agreement on practical methods of covering peace-keeping costs, without re-opening the question of principles. (2) It is our hope that, in the light of the advisory opinion of the International Court, the Working Group can proceed on the basis that expenses of peace-keeping operations, in future, are expenses of the organization under Article 17 (2) of the Charter of the United Nations. This should enable the Working Group to concentrate on the question of how the costs of peace-keeping operations in the future should be apportioned among member states. (3) A final point which led the co-sponsors to request an early report from the Working Group relates to the critical nature of the United Nations financial position. While the organization was in serious financial difficulties in 1961, these difficulties have been compounded and the need for adoption of acceptable methods of financing peace-keeping operations has become even more urgent. It is obvious that the Assembly action to provide the means to continue United Nations peace-keeping activities will have to be taken in the not-distant future. Operative Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Working Group of Fifteen to member states as early as possible, so that they may have an opportunity to study it before its consideration by the United Nations General Assembly at an appropriate time.

"The Canadian Delegation and the co-sponsors of Draft L.761 believe that the time has come...when an acceptable method of covering the costs of peace-keeping operations is absolutely essential. We can no longer rely on the *ad hoc* financial arrangements which have characterized previous peace-keeping operations. Furthermore, we believe that the two resolutions which are being introduced are complementary and provide a logical and desirable sequence of events leading to the solution of a problem which has been before us for a number of years. All delegations should be able to agree on the necessity of making available to the United Nations the funds it requires to fulfill its purposes under the Charter. We believe that the path outlined in the two resolutions is the most appropriate one and deserves full support by the United Nations General Assembly."

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