

West. At the last minute, the voting issue was side-stepped by unanimous agreement to proceed by a "no-objection" procedure; issues requiring a vote would not be dealt with in the first weeks of the session, while negotiations on the settlement of the arrears dispute went on in the corridors. On this basis, itself accepted "without objection", the Assembly elected a President and turned to general debate.

The corridor negotiations, which now turned exclusively to resolving the problem of the past, concentrated on proposals to establish a voluntary fund to rescue the United Nations from the financial problems imposed by its operating deficit of close to \$90 million. There were many variants to the proposal. In essence, they all envisaged voluntary contributions from defaulters and paid-up members alike to rid the United Nations of its financial incubus and to create an appropriate climate which would permit voting to resume, allow substantive Assembly work to get under way and pave the way for eventual negotiations on the financing of future operations. The United States was prepared to agree to the voluntary fund and to contribute to it, provided contributions from defaulters were made before any return to normal business and were sufficiently large to satisfy the minimum requirements of Article 19. The Soviet Union was also prepared to agree and to contribute, but insisted that the Assembly must return to normal business (voting) before the fund was established and that the level of individual contributions must be left to the discretion of the contributor. In short, the United States was determined to uphold Article 19 while the Soviet Union was equally determined to breach it. On this essential point agreement foundered.

By February 1965, it had become apparent that no settlement would be reached on the problems of the past until broad agreement had been secured on guidelines to govern future peace-keeping arrangements. This in turn would require long and arduous negotiations. The General Assembly had, however, long since exhausted the possibilities for action without voting. A lengthy recess thus became inevitable. Accordingly, the members agreed to approve the necessary financial and administrative measures to keep the Organization operating until the Assembly met again in September (including a request that member states make advance payments to the United Nations of not less than 80 per cent of their assessed contribution for 1964), took urgent decisions on which there was no disagreement, and established a Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations "to review the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects". A last-minute effort by Albania to precipitate the much-deferred confrontation by rejecting these proposals and returning immediately to "normal business" (including