

I should now like to turn for a moment to some of the broad financial implications for the United Nations of operations such as that now being carried on in the Congo. The years since San Francisco have seen this Organization assume increasingly extensive functions and responsibilities, in the economic and social as well as in the political fields. Step by step with this development, which all of us must welcome, the financial resources required have also swelled to magnitudes not contemplated in 1945. The regular annual budget for the United Nations alone already stands at some 73 million dollars. Quite apart from the resources made available to the International Bank, the International Development Association, and the International Monetary Fund, the total annual contributions to the United Nations Specialized Agencies, the Expanded Programme, and the Special Fund now total approximately 250 million dollars. To the strain of these commitments have been added in recent years the heavy demands of peace-keeping activities. These last, I need hardly add, lie close to the heart of the United Nations concept, and appear in the Charter as the first of the co-operative purposes which must guide us in the implementation of our responsibilities.

The United Nations in the Congo is the most complex and costly peace-keeping operation ever undertaken by this organization, and it has placed an unprecedented burden on the already strained financial resources available to the United Nations. So far, the operation has not been placed on a firm financial footing and temporary measures have had to be employed to obtain the necessary finances. These have involved heavy borrowing from the Working Capital Fund and from the reserves of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme. The result has been what is unquestionably the most critical financial crisis the Organization has ever had to face.

In these circumstances, the Assembly's attention must be directed urgently to reaching a decision, on the estimates