

Peace-keeping and UN Finances

Article I of the United Nations Charter states, in part, that the purpose of the United Nations is "to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression". Since 1945, the United Nations has been involved in peace-keeping operations in Pakistan and India [United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), 1949 -], the Middle East [the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF)], and the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO), 1956 -], Lebanon [United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL), 1948], the Congo [ONUC], 1960 -], West Irian [UNTEA], 1963], and Yemen [UNYOM], 1963 -]. In addition, in 1950, the United Nations quickly stepped in to resist Communist aggression in Korea and, through the efforts of the United Nations Unified Command (1950-53), the Communists were driven out of the territory of the Republic of South Korea. Canada has firmly supported the United Nations activities in maintaining international peace, and Canadian military personnel have seen service with the United Nations in Korea, the Middle East, India, Pakistan, West Irian, and the Congo. At present, about 1,300 Canadian military personnel are serving in UNEF, ONUC, UNTSO, UNMOGIP, and UNYOM.

In addition to providing military personnel for these United Nations peace-keeping operations, Canada, as one of the three supervisory members of the International Commissions for Supervision and Control in Indochina, with India and Poland, has maintained military and civilian personnel in Indochina since 1954. During the period 1954-61, Canada has contributed approximately \$1 million as its share of the costs of this operation, which, although not a United Nations peace-keeping operation, has been of considerable assistance in maintaining international peace and security in the troubled countries of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Until 1956, virtually all member states regularly contributed their share of the assessed costs of all United Nations peace-keeping operations. With the establishment of UNEF in 1956, peace-keeping costs rapidly increased. In 1960, a further increase occurred when the United Nations Security Council declared that the situation in the Congo was a threat to international peace and security and, at the request of the Congolese Government, established a United Nations force (ONUC) in the Congo to maintain order. The costs of ONUC were considerably greater than those of UNEF (\$120 million a year compared to \$20 million a year). In each instance, arguments were raised by certain countries that the costs of these peace-keeping operations were not the collective responsibility of member states, while other countries felt that the costs should not be borne by all member states according to the regular UN scale of assessments. The inability or unwillingness of some member states to pay their assessed shares of ONUC and UNEF costs has created disturbing financial difficulties for the United Nations. As a result, the organization has been forced to borrow funds from other United Nations accounts and to accept voluntary contributions and advances in order to meet its bills.

As of August 31, 1963, the delinquent member states owed the United Nations about \$104.7 million for their assessments for 1962 and previous years. This amount may be broken down as follows: 22 states were in arrears, as regards the regular UN budget, for \$5.6 million; 49 members owed approximately \$27 million to the UNEF Special Account; and 58 members were in arrears to the ONUC Ad Hoc Special Account for approximately \$71.5 million. Thus, about 97 per cent of the total arrears of \$104.7 million resulted from the failure or inability of member states to pay their assessed share of UNEF and ONUC costs.

Canada has consistently paid its assessed share of all United Nations costs and has shown lively interest in the financial aspects of the organization's activities. For example, at the fifteenth session, Canada co-sponsored a resolution which set up a Committee of Experts to examine United Nations financial and budgetary procedures. At the sixteenth session, Canada co-sponsored a resolution