

A good deal of attention was given to the continued Portuguese presence in Africa. Senegal, Guinea and Zambia brought complaints on separate occasions to the Council charging Portuguese aggression against their territories, and the Council subsequently condemned Portuguese actions -- in the case of Zambia, by a vote of 11 in favor to none against, with four abstentions, and in the case of Senegal by a vote of 13-0-2.

Spanish and Russian were adopted as working languages of the Security Council, a development that reflected a decision taken by the General Assembly in 1968.

Though the situation in Northern Ireland was brought to the Council's attention, it took no action on the subject.

The Council considered amendments to the statute of the International Court of Justice and decided that states party to this statute but not members of the UN could participate in the amendments of the ICJ statute by the General Assembly.

The Council, at the initiative of the United States, also established a committee to study the question of "micro-state" membership in the UN. Discussion on this subject has revolved round the conflicting objects of universality of membership and of the ability of member states to fulfill UN membership obligations.

The Council dealt with a number of other matters. It decided to maintain the peacekeeping force in Cyprus, expressed its gratitude to those countries (among which Canada is prominent) that participate in UNFCYP, and called on other countries to help meet the expenses of the force. The desire for rule by consensus persists in the Council, and this year the veto was not used. With some exceptions, decisions were taken through unanimity, and even in cases of disagreement the permanent members registered protest by abstaining rather than by exercising the veto.

Peace-keeping

The 1968 session of the General Assembly had requested the Special Committee of 33 on Peacekeeping Operations to continue its work on the preparation of a comprehensive report on UN military observers established or authorized by the Security Council.

During 1969, a small working group of the Special Committee, composed of four great powers (France, Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union) and four middle powers (Canada, Czechoslovakia, Mexico and the U.A.R.), got down to serious work. From March to September, it met on the average twice a week and engaged in detailed discussions of the rules that should govern UN military observer missions. The atmosphere was good throughout and there was a noticeable absence of polemics.

Making use of a Canadian paper which gave a detailed outline for the military observer "model", and other papers submitted by the United States, and by the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia jointly, the working group was able to agree on the text of five of eight chapters of the military observer study. The remaining chapters, dealing with the most