

Nations involving heavy expenditures. Most of the countries which had refused to pay their assessed share of UNEF and ONUC costs (including the Soviet bloc, France, Belgium, Portugal, South Africa and some Arab states) opposed the 20-power proposal and argued that the Assembly was not able to impose binding obligations on member states without the consent of the states concerned. Four Arab countries which held a similar view submitted an amendment to the 20-power draft which would have had the Assembly "take note" of the advisory opinion. With regard to the question of finding a more permanent method of financing peace-keeping operations, 19 Latin American countries wished the Working Group to be enlarged and to be given a considerable amount of guidance. These countries tabled a 19-power draft resolution which was in competition with the 11-power draft. As a result of extensive negotiations between the two groups of co-sponsors on this question, a generally satisfactory compromise text was agreed upon.

After a lengthy but restrained debate, the Assembly rejected the four-power Arab amendment by a vote of 28 to 61 (Canada), with 14 abstentions. It adopted the 20-power draft, accepting the opinion by a roll-call vote of 76 (Canada) to 17, with eight abstentions, as Part A of Resolution 1854 (XVII). The 30-power compromise text re-establishing and enlarging the Working Group of 21 members and giving it a certain amount of guidance was adopted as Part B of Resolution 1854 (XVII) by a roll-call vote of 78 (Canada) in favour, to 14 against, with four abstentions.

The Working Group of 21 is to meet early in 1963 and is required to submit its report before March 31, 1963. A special session of the General Assembly will be called prior to June 30 to consider the financial situation of the organization. It is to be hoped that the Working Group and the Assembly at its special session will be able to agree upon a generally acceptable method of financing large-scale United Nations peace-keeping operations in the future. Agreement on such a method would help to ensure the United Nations of the funds necessary to fulfill its responsibilities under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Administrative and Personnel Questions

Contrary to previous debates on personnel questions involving the geographical distribution of staff of the Secretariat and the proportion of fixed-term contracts held by Secretariat personnel, discussion at the seventeenth session was relatively subdued. This was due to a considerable extent to the Secretary-General's efforts to meet the recommendations of the Assembly at its sixteenth session. Thus, while the Soviet bloc again referred to its "troika" proposals, there was a distinct lack of support for them due, in part, to the improvements made by the Secretary-General in achieving a more equitable geographical distribution of staff and increasing the proportion