

With Argentina, Chile, Iran, Italy, Nigeria and Norway as co-sponsors, the Secretary of State for External Affairs introduced a resolution at the November 23 meeting of the Special Political Committee consisting of the following main elements:

- (a) an expression, in the preamble, of the conviction of member states that co-operation to ensure effective peacekeeping operations was important and a restatement of the respective responsibilities of the Security Council and of the General Assembly;
- (b) confirmation of the desirability of a special scale to govern the apportionment of the costs of peacekeeping operations involving heavy expenditures, with the suggestion that certain criteria be taken into account in such cases and that the developing countries collectively should pay no more than 5 per cent of the total costs;
- (c) an invitation to member states to inform the United Nations of the military or civil forces or services which they might be in a position to provide for future peacekeeping operations; and
- (d) recommendations to the Security Council regarding authorization of a study of peacekeeping operations and renewed efforts to reach agreement under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Representatives of 76 delegations spoke in the peacekeeping debate in the Special Political Committee. The great majority of speakers wanted the General Assembly to take a forward step on peace-keeping and, while acknowledging the pre-eminence of the Security Council in the maintenance of peace and security, contended that the General Assembly had a complementary role. Private consultations had suggested that the intentions of the co-sponsors of the Canadian resolution to make progress without disturbing positions of principle would be accepted at face value, but subsequent developments reflected an increasingly suspicious attitude on the part of the U.S.S.R. and France.

Debate in the Special Political Committee became more heated as the end of the session approached without any sign of compromise and as other issues, particularly "colonial" issues, came to a head in the Assembly. On December 8, the U.A.R., India and Yugoslavia tabled a draft resolution which, in effect, incorporated most of the ideas in the Canadian resolution but referred them back for study to the Committee of 33. Prior to voting in the Special Political Committee on December 14, the U.A.R. representative requested priority for this text over all other resolutions. This motion for priority was rejected by a vote of 33 in favour and 49 against (including Ireland and Canada), with 26 abstentions and, consequently, the three-power