

In 1963, there was no direct confrontation between great powers to compare with the Cuban crisis in the autumn of 1962. Instead, international relations steadily improved, and this facilitated the United Nations peace-keeping role (the Soviet Union did not block the Yemen operation, for example), even though the fundamental issues remained unresolved. The principal source of continuing great-power disagreement in the United Nations was the failure to evolve satisfactory arrangements for financing the keeping of peace.

In no area of United Nations responsibility is the need for a concerted effort more starkly apparent than in the arrangements for financing major peace-keeping operations. Both UNEF and ONUC have been broadly supported by political decisions of the General Assembly, and the Congo force was actually set up as a result of a Security Council resolution. These political decisions have not been fully sustained during the Assembly's consideration of financing arrangements. A number of states have refused outright to pay their financial assessments, even though they have the capacity to pay. A large number of the less-developed countries, some of which may not have the capacity to pay, have sought to have their financial assessments sharply reduced. Even when substantial reductions have been granted, some members have been very slow in paying their assessments. All this has created a sizeable problem of arrears and faced the organization with financial and political difficulties.

The financial issues were the subject of detailed consideration in the Working Group of Twenty-one on the Examination of Administrative and Budgetary Procedures and subsequently at the fourth special session of the Assembly, held in May and June 1963. While the General Assembly succeeded in devising *ad hoc* arrangements for financing the peace-keeping operations, these were not accepted by all members and did not deal with the problem of arrears. The basic issues have yet to be faced squarely. This may occur in 1964, when the Soviet-bloc countries and some others, if they have done nothing to liquidate their arrears, may be faced with the loss of vote in the General Assembly under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

The rapid enlargement of the membership has created heavy pressure for changes in the composition of the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Secretariat. The main effort has been to provide seats in various bodies and posts in the Secretariat for geographical areas which, for one reason or another, were under-represented. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, some progress has been made in balancing the composition of the Secretariat. Comparable arrangements are being made in the Specialized Agencies.

The problem as regards the two main Councils is more complicated. It is abundantly clear that both the Security Council and the Economic and