

Some Delegations might wonder how the co-sponsors expect the working group to reach agreement in three months when the previous working group had over five months to study virtually the same question. We believe that there are several relevant factors in suggesting a date of April 1 for completion of the Group's report. These factors are: (1) At its previous meetings the working group was able to outline various principles and issues which might provide the necessary elements for determining the methods of financing United Nations peace-keeping operations. Those principles and issues are listed in paragraph 6 of Document A/4971. Therefore, the re-established working group should be able to build on the work of its predecessor and thus concentrate its attention on reaching agreement on practical methods of covering peace-keeping costs, without re-opening the question of principles. (2) It is our hope that, in the light of the Advisory opinion of the International Court, the working group can proceed on the basis that expenses of peace-keeping operations, in future, are expenses of the Organization under Article 17 (2) of ^{the} Charter of the United Nations. This should enable the working group to concentrate on the question of how the costs of peace-keeping operations in the future should be apportioned among member states. (3) A final point which led the co-sponsors to request an early report from the Working group relates to the critical nature of the United Nations financial position. While the organization was in serious financial difficulties in 1961, these difficulties have been compounded and the need for adoption of acceptable methods of financing peace-keeping operations has become even more urgent. It is obvious that the Assembly ~~action to provide the means to continue~~ United Nations peace-keeping activities will have to be taken in the not-distant future. Operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the working group of fifteen to member states as early as possible, so that they may have an opportunity to study it before its consideration by United Nations General Assembly at an appropriate time.