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**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 794th
MEETING**



Tuesday, 7 December 1971,
at 11.05 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Cornelius C. CREMIN (Ireland).

AGENDA ITEM 39

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects: report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/8550)

1. Mr. KASSEM (Egypt) introduced the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/8550), which described the Special Committee's efforts to fulfil its mandate during the preceding year. Unfortunately, very little of substance could be said regarding the Working Group's work on Model I. The text of the report was self-explanatory and did not reflect any promising trend. Like the Special Committee, the Working Group had been unable to complete the task assigned to it. The reasons for the obvious lack of progress on the matter were well known. It was his hope, in introducing the report, that the Committee would find itself able to provide the Special Committee and its Working Group with advice on the most appropriate way of proceeding with the task entrusted to them.

2. Mr. ČERNÍK (Czechoslovakia) said that the report before the Committee presented a true picture of the activities of the Special Committee as they had developed since the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The complex of problems concerning peace-keeping operations was one of the links in the chain of questions relating to the maintenance of peace and security, which, under the Charter, constituted the main purpose of the United Nations. Consequently, it had been no surprise that the Organization, when evaluating a quarter-century of its work and considering its future at the previous session, had accorded due attention to the question of peace-keeping operations. Both the Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, contained in General Assembly resolution 2627 (XXV), and the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, contained in General Assembly resolution 2734 (XXV), contained provisions pertaining to that complex of problems. Moreover, in its resolution 2670 (XXV), which dealt exclusively with that question, the General Assembly had directed the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to submit to it at its twenty-sixth session a completed comprehensive report on the United Nations military observers established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes pursuant to Council resolutions, as well as a progress report on any other models of peace-keeping operations.

3. His country, which held one of the Vice-Chairmanships on the Special Committee and was a member of its Working Group, had always given great attention to the question of peace keeping. For example, the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations, in a note verbale of 26 November 1964 addressed to the Secretary-General,¹ had communicated his Government's position with regard to some questions concerning increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations in safeguarding international peace and security. In the note verbale, his Government had proceeded from the fact that United Nations peace-keeping operations must be seen as part of the broader problem of strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations. In view of the Organization's role in maintaining international peace and security, it was obvious that the successful fulfilment of that task was of great importance for the future of the United Nations as an association of States of different geographical and political regions and differing social and economic systems. His Government had, of course, emphasized that future United Nations activities relating to the maintenance of peace and security must be in accordance with the Charter and had noted that if that basic condition was not respected the actions of States could only undermine the pillars on which the Organization rested. The note verbale had also stated his country's views on the role of the Security Council in the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security and the prevention of aggression, as well as on the financing of such operations. In addition, his Government had stated that, in accordance with Article 43 of the Charter, it was ready to make available to the Security Council a contingent of its armed forces and that, provided the principles it had referred to were put into effect, it was ready to conclude an appropriate agreement with the Security Council. Under the conditions it had specified, it had expressed its willingness to participate, if necessary, in the financing of peace-keeping operations. It had also expressed its expectation that all questions related to the strengthening of the effectiveness of the United Nations in the safeguarding of international peace and security would be considered with the objective of working out generally recognized rules for United Nations military operations in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

4. That offer had been further clarified in a letter of 13 April 1967 from the representative of Czechoslovakia to the President of the Security Council,² in which he had presented 12 principles on the basis of which his Government was ready to make available to the Security Council a

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes*, annex No. 21, document A/5821.

² *Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1967*, document S/7852.

contingent of its armed forces. Of equal significance was the working paper submitted jointly by Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 23 April 1969, concerning Model I, namely United Nations military observers established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes pursuant to Council resolutions. Along with the views of the authors, that document had presented the positions of some other socialist countries and, together with the proposals of Canada and the United States, had created a basis for negotiations concerning Model I, in which his delegation had taken an active part.

5. At the outset, work on Model I had proceeded promisingly, resulting in the completion of five chapters within a relatively short time. The remaining chapters, namely chapter II on the establishment, direction and control of observers, chapter III on legal arrangements and chapter IV on financial arrangements, embraced the most difficult and controversial issues, the solution of which touched upon the substance of the problem as a whole. It was well known that, in the past, a divergence of views on the resolution of those issues had brought the United Nations to the brink of a serious crisis.

6. While it was necessary to expedite work on peace-keeping operations, it should be recognized that any peace-keeping operations which were not in accordance with the provisions of the Charter would not contribute to the strengthening of the Organization but, on the contrary,

would serve to weaken it. He stressed that, when speaking of the requirement that peace-keeping operations should be in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter, he was referring primarily to provisions regarding the competence of the Security Council in such questions.

7. In spite of the fact that the Special Committee had not yet completed the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, his delegation did not believe that there was any reason to adopt an attitude of resignation. The complex of problems relating to peace-keeping operations was of great importance for the United Nations, and there was virtually no alternative but to continue the work which had been begun and to try to bring it to a successful conclusion. The Special Committee and its Working Group were suitable instruments for that purpose. It would be wrong to become discouraged even if the work done so far had shown that the task, owing to the complex nature of the question, was far from easy.

8. Conscious of his responsibilities as a Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee and as a member of its Working Group, he believed that the Special Committee should continue its work and endeavour to overcome the obstacles it had encountered. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's willingness to contribute to the utmost of its ability to the attainment of that objective.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.