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Agenda item 41

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF  
PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ömer E. AKBEL (Turkey)

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects: report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations" was included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971.
2. At its 200th meeting, on 21 September 1972, the General Committee decided to recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report. At its 2037th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1972, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 843rd to 848th meetings, held between 22 and 30 November 1972.
4. The Special Political Committee had before it:
  - (a) The report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations of 13 November 1972 (A/8888), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971;
  - (b) A document submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on basic guiding principles for the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations, including the United Nations observer missions (A/8669);
  - (c) A memorandum submitted by the United States of America on the establishment and conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations which are authorized by the Security Council (A/8676, annex);

(d) A memorandum submitted by Canada on command and control of peace-keeping operations (A/SPC/152).

5. At the 847th meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Canada introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.256) on behalf of Canada, Czechoslovakia, Japan and Nigeria, the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Takes note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in particular paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Report;

"2. Urges the Special Committee to accelerate its work, in view of the importance of achieving, in accordance with its mandate, agreed guidelines for carrying out peace-keeping operations in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;

"3. Notes with appreciation the efforts of those Member States that have submitted views and suggestions to the Special Committee, and requests Member States to continue to make available to the Special Committee any views and suggestions that they may wish to submit to help the work of the Special Committee;

"4. Requests the Special Committee, taking into account the progress made by its Working Group, to study the views and suggestions submitted by Member States, in response to paragraph 4 of resolution 2835 (XXVI) and referred to in paragraphs 2, 4 and 6 of the fifth report of the Working Group, as well as those expressed during the debate of the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, with a view to renewing further efforts;

"5. Recommends that, in order to expedite progress and to enable the Special Committee to hold a more frequent exchange of views on the question, its Working Group should prepare and submit at intervals reports that would facilitate discussion and agreement on questions of substance;

"6. Requests the Special Committee to continue its work more actively so as to make substantive progress, and to report to the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session."

6. At the 848th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Mali submitted oral amendments to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 6 of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.256). The representatives of France and Algeria proposed oral subamendments to the amendments proposed by Mali.

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7. As accepted by the sponsors at the same meeting, the amendments provided for:
- (a) The deletion of operative paragraph 2;
  - (b) The renumbering of operative paragraphs 3 and 4;
  - (c) The addition of the words "and contribution" in operative paragraph 3 after the words "the efforts";
  - (d) The insertion of a new operative paragraph 5 reading as follows:  

"Urges the Special Committee to accelerate and intensify its work so as to make substantive progress, in view of the importance of achieving, in pursuance of its mandate, agreed guidelines for carrying out peace-keeping operations in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;"
  - (e) The deletion in paragraph 6 of the words "to continue its work more actively so as to make substantive progress, and".
8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted, without objection, the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.256) as amended (see para. 9 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

9. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965, 2053 A (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2249 (S-V) of 23 May 1967, 2308 (XXII) of 13 December 1967, 2451 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2670 (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971,

Having received and examined the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations of 13 November 1972, 1/

Noting with appreciation the agreement arrived at by the Special Committee concerning the election of a new Chairman and two additional Vice-Chairmen and the enlargement of the Working Group,

Noting with regret that the mandate entrusted to the Special Committee has not yet been fulfilled,

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1/ A/8888.

Conscious, nevertheless, that the problems with which the Special Committee has been faced are of a fundamental nature and require close and thorough consideration, to which any Member of the United Nations may usefully contribute,

Bearing in mind that Member States are deeply concerned in the present international situation over the continued lack of agreement on concrete guidelines for carrying out United Nations peace-keeping operations in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in particular paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report;
2. Notes with appreciation the efforts and contributions of those Member States that have submitted views and suggestions to the Special Committee, and requests Member States to continue to make available to the Committee any views and suggestions that they may wish to submit to help its work;
3. Requests the Special Committee, taking into account the progress made by its Working Group, to study the views and suggestions submitted by Member States, in response to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2835 (XXVI) and referred to in paragraphs 2, 4 and 6 of the fifth report of the Working Group, 2/ as well as those expressed during the debate of the Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, with a view to renewing further efforts;
4. Recommends that, in order to expedite progress and to enable the Special Committee to hold a more frequent exchange of views on the question, its Working Group should prepare and submit at intervals reports that would facilitate discussion and agreement on questions of substance;
5. Urges the Special Committee to accelerate and intensify its work so as to make substantive progress, in view of the importance of achieving, in pursuance of its mandate, agreed guidelines for carrying out peace-keeping operations in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;
6. Requests the Special Committee to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

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2/ A/8888, annex.