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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Twenty-eighth session

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 19 OF THE CHARTER - REFERENCE TO THE
COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ADVICE ON REQUEST BY HAITI
FOR PERMISSION TO VOTE

Payment pattern of Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General

1. During the first years of its membership in the United Nations - from 1946 to 1958 - Haiti normally paid its annual contribution to the United Nations regular budget during the course of the year to which the contribution applied. Since 1959, there has generally been delay in the payment of Haiti's annual contributions, and on 1 January 1962, the amount of arrears of Haiti exceeded for the first time the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. On 1 January of each year from 1962 onwards, Haiti has been in arrears in the payment of its contributions to the Organization within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter. A payment in sufficient amount to reduce the arrears below the limit specified in Article 19 has, however, been received each year (except 1968) before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly.
2. In 1963, when the fourth special session of the General Assembly opened on 14 May, the annexed exchange of correspondence (annex) took place between the Secretary-General and the President of the fourth special session of the General Assembly, concerning the status of Haiti under Article 19 of the Charter. A payment in sufficient amount to reduce the arrears below the limit specified in Article 19 of the Charter was received from the Government of Haiti on 23 May 1963. The 1963 session of the Committee on Contributions was held in September of that year.

3. When the fifth special session of the General Assembly opened on 21 April 1967, the Secretary-General reported to the President of the Assembly a list of Members, including Haiti, that were in arrears in the payment of their contribution to the United Nations regular budget under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.^{1/}

On 5 May 1967, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Assembly that Haiti had paid the amount necessary to reduce its arrears to the United Nations regular budget below the limit specified in Article 19 of the Charter.^{2/} In 1967, the Committee on Contributions met from 16 May to 1 June.

4. In 1968, the General Assembly resumed its twenty-second session on 24 April and the Secretary-General informed the President of the Assembly by letter (A/7086) of the Members, including Haiti, which on that date were in arrears in the payment of their contributions to the United Nations regular budget within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.^{3/} At its twenty-seventh session held from 1 to 20 May 1968, the Committee on Contributions took note of reports by the Secretary-General^{4/} which showed that, at the time of the conclusion of its meeting, two Member States, namely, the Dominican Republic^{5/} and Haiti, were in arrears in the payment of their contributions to the United Nations regular budget, within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter. The position of Haiti, when the twenty-third session of the General Assembly opened on 24 September 1968, was reported to the President of the Assembly in the Secretary-General's letter of that date (A/7238), the text of which is given in annex II to A/CN.2/R.263.

^{1/} See A/6643.

^{2/} See A/6647/Add.1.

^{3/} See document A/7086, issued as annex I of A/CN.2/R.253.

^{4/} A/CN.2/R.253 and Add.1 and 2.

^{5/} On 24 September 1968, the Dominican Republic paid the amount required to reduce its arrears to the United Nations regular budget below the limit specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

ANNEX

Letter dated 14 May 1963 from the Secretary-General to the
President of the General Assembly

"At the present time one Member State, Haiti, is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter which provides as follows:

'A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.'

"The arrear contributions due from the Government of Haiti exceed by \$22,400 the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years, and a payment exceeding that amount would be necessary in order to reduce the arrears below the limit specified in Article 19."

Letter dated 15 May 1963 from the President of the General Assembly
to the Secretary-General

"I have received your letter of 14 May 1963, informing me that, at the opening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly, Haiti was in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the United Nations within terms of Article 19 of the Charter. I would have made an announcement drawing the attention of the Assembly to the loss of voting rights in the Assembly of the Member State just mentioned, under the first sentence of Article 19, had a formal count of vote taken place in the presence of a representative of that State at the opening plenary meeting. As no such vote took place, and as the representative of Haiti was not present, this announcement became unnecessary.

"I am transmitting a copy of your letter and of my present reply to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee at the present Special Session so that he may be informed of the situation which will give rise to the loss of voting rights in the Fifth Committee of the Member concerned if the situation is not previously rectified. I am informed, in this respect, that the representative of Haiti will very shortly make the payment necessary to render the first sentence of Article 19 inapplicable."

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