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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mpumelelo Joseph HLOPHE (Swaziland)

I. INTRODUCTION

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 forty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 41/67 of 3 December 1986.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 5th, 6th, 7th, 29th, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 19 and 20 October and 18, 24 and 25 November 1987 (see A/SPC/42/SR.5, 6, 7, 29, 33 and 34).
4. The Special Political Committee had before it a letter dated 8 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/77), and a note verbale dated 9 October 1987 from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/637-S/19190).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

5. On 29 October 1987, a draft resolution (A/SPC/42/L.17) was circulated, sponsored by Australia, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Sweden, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 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, 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 2965 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3091 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3239 (XXIX) of 25 November 1974, 3457 (XXX) of 10 December 1975, 31/105 of 15 December 1976, 32/106 of 15 December 1977, 33/114 of 18 December 1978, 34/53 of 23 November 1979, 35/121 of 11 December 1980, 36/37 of 18 November 1981, 37/93 of 10 December 1982, 38/81 of 15 December 1983, 39/97 of 14 December 1984, 40/163 of 16 December 1985 and 41/67 of 3 December 1986,

"Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security,

"Conscious of the vital role played by United Nations peace-keeping forces in support of decisions of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

"Recognizing that the presence of United Nations peace-keeping forces authorized by the Security Council in conflict areas demonstrates the common concern of Members of the United Nations in the preservation of stability and easing of tension in those areas,

"Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the light of the heavy burden incurred by troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

"Stressing the collective responsibility of Member States, in accordance with the Charter, to share equitably the financial burdens of such operations established by the Security Council, which should continue to be conducted with maximum efficiency and economy,

"Urging, at the same time, that other areas of co-operation with and support for United Nations peace-keeping forces should be encouraged,

"Recognizing the need to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations peace-keeping forces,

"Commending the Secretary-General for the way he is carrying out peace-keeping operations of the United Nations decided upon by the Security Council,

"Convinced that the importance of the issue of United Nations peace-keeping is such that the United Nations should continue to work for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects,

"Convinced that the United Nations peace-keeping operations are an integral component of enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

"Taking account of the views expressed and issues raised on the question of peace-keeping during the debate on the item,

"1. Expresses its conviction that peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, conducted with the consent of the host countries and with respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, are an essential function of the United Nations though not a substitute for the peaceful settlement of disputes and are therefore of a temporary nature;

"2. Urges all concerned to co-operate fully in the implementation of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

"3. Reaffirms and renews the mandate given to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

"4. Expresses concern about the difficult financial situation of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and stresses the responsibility of Member States for their financing;

"5. Urges again the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in accordance with its mandate, to continue to work for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in this field;

"6. Requests the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled 'Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects'."

6. At the 29th meeting, on 18 November, the Chairman submitted for consideration a draft resolution (A/SPC/42/L.19), which had been prepared following informal consultations and which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 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, 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 2965 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3091 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3239 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3457 (XXX) of 10 December 1975, 31/105 of 15 December 1976, 32/106 of 15 December 1977, 33/114 of 18 December 1978, 34/53 of 23 November 1979, 35/121 of 11 December 1980, 36/37 of 18 November 1981, 37/93

of 10 December 1982, 38/81 of 15 December 1983, 39/97 of 14 December 1984, 40/163 of 16 December 1985 and 41/67 of 3 December 1986,

"Convinced that the United Nations peace-keeping operations are an integral component of enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

"Commending the Secretary-General for the way he is carrying out peace-keeping operations of the United Nations decided upon by the Security Council,

"Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the light of the heavy burden incurred by the troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

"Noting that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations has not been able to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session,

"1. Expresses its conviction that peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, conducted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, are an essential function of the United Nations though not a substitute for the peaceful settlement of disputes and are therefore of a temporary nature;

"2. Expresses concern about the difficult financial situation of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

"3. Urges all concerned to co-operate fully in the implementation of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

"4. Reaffirms and renews the mandate given to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

"5. Urges the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in accordance with its mandate, to continue in 1988 its work for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view of strengthening the role of the United Nations in this field and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled 'Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects'."

7. At the 33rd meeting, on 24 November, the Chairman withdrew draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.19.

8. At the 34th meeting, on 25 November, the Chairman announced that he had been informed by the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.17 that they did not wish to put the draft resolution to the Committee for a decision.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Nigeria introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/42/L.30), sponsored by Nigeria, subsequently joined by Austria.
10. At the same meeting, the representative of Finland stated that the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.17 would not put that draft resolution to the Committee for a decision provided that draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.30 was adopted without a vote.
11. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.30 without a vote (see para. 13).
12. Following the adoption of the resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Denmark (on behalf of the twelve members of the European Community), Turkey and Ghana.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

13. 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 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 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, 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 2965 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3091 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3239 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3457 (XXX) of 10 December 1975, 31/105 of 15 December 1976, 32/106 of 15 December 1977, 33/114 of 18 December 1978, 34/53 of 23 November 1979, 35/121 of 11 December 1980, 36/37 of 18 November 1981, 37/93 of 10 December 1982, 38/81 of 15 December 1983, 39/97 of 14 December 1984, 40/163 of 16 December 1985 and 41/67 of 3 December 1986,

Convinced that the United Nations peace-keeping operations are an integral component of enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the light of the heavy burden incurred by the troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

1. Requests the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in accordance with its mandate, to resume its work in 1988 for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in this field,

taking into account the difficult financial situation of peace-keeping operations;

2. Further requests the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects".
