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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

Rapporteur: Mr. Nabil A. ELARABY (Egypt)

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly, following consideration of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/35/592) adopted resolution 34/53 of 23 November 1979. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of that resolution, the Assembly urged once again the Special Committee to expedite its work for an early completion of agreed guidelines which would govern the conduct of peace-keeping operations of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter and to devote attention to specific questions related to the practical implementation of peace-keeping operations, and requested the Special Committee to report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.
2. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations held five meetings, on 13 May, 16 July, 4 and 24 September and 10 October 1980.
3. At its 77th meeting, on 13 May, the Special Committee re-elected its officers for a further term of one year.
4. At its 78th meeting, on 16 July, the Special Committee reconstituted its Working Group in order to proceed with the work mandated to the Special Committee by the General Assembly. In addition, it was considered that a revised edition of Working File No. 3 would be most helpful to the members of the Special Committee. The Secretariat was therefore requested, in conjunction with the Working Group, to bring that document up to date and to re-issue it as Working File No. 4.
5. At the 79th meeting, on 4 September, in addition to statements of view by other members, Canada submitted a paper bearing on selected questions related to the practical implementation of peace-keeping operations and based on recent developments in specific operations, experience of that country and consultations

with other troop-contributing Governments. This paper was subsequently issued (A/AC.121/32), together with other observations received by the Secretary-General from Member States in pursuance of paragraph 2 of resolution 34/53.

6. At its 80th and 81st meetings, on 24 September and 10 October, the Special Committee considered its report to the General Assembly.

7. The course of discussions, both in the Special Committee and in the Working Group, reaffirmed the wide disparity of members' views on the matters facing the Special Committee and the great difficulty in finding any compromise acceptable to all. Some members expressed their growing concern at the continuance of certain practical problems, including the financial aspects, facing peace-keeping operations and urged that, despite the absence of progress on agreed guidelines, some positive action should be taken towards resolving some of these difficulties. The continued existence of the financial crisis which the Special Committee had been created to solve was noted by several speakers. However, it was the view of other members that the Special Committee's responsibility and therefore the focus of attention continued to be the agreement of guidelines on United Nations peace-keeping operations for which in their view there existed already a definite basis for further progress, providing goodwill was demonstrated. Yet another view was that both issues, the agreement of guidelines and the discussion of practical measures to improve the implementation of peace-keeping operations, should be addressed in order to make balanced progress in both aspects of the task facing the Committee.

8. Among the views expressed, Japan considered that a draft formulation of practical measures could be prepared by reviewing the comments submitted by various countries and then listing proposals and problems according to major categories. Commenting on the fundamental divergence of views over the matter of financing, Japan observed that in consequence the deficit continued to increase and this, in turn, lead to problems of non-reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, thus further weakening the functioning of peace-keeping operations. Canada drew attention to the fact that, while Member States not directly associated with peace-keeping operations might perhaps find it easier to accept the dilemma in which the Committee found itself, those Member States which were involved or closely interested, particularly but not exclusively troop contributors, continued to experience problems which could be addressed only on an ad hoc basis. In the view of the United States of America, although the establishment of agreed guidelines had been seen as an important aspect of the problem in the middle years of the Special Committee's work, this problem had been largely overcome in 1973 with the establishment of the second United Nations Emergency Force. The guidelines for that force, promulgated in the Secretary-General's report (S/11052/Rev.1), had also served as the guidelines for subsequent operations; thus there was in practice a working agreement on that issue. Therefore, the Committee should concentrate on the matters of practical measures to improve the planning and support of peace-keeping operations. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that it continued to give great significance to the achievement of guidelines in strict compliance with the Charter, which remained the Committee's primary responsibility, and was ready to continue efforts on the basis of progress achieved in this direction in the past. The Soviet Union was convinced that any

attempt to distract the Committee's attention from this fundamental task and bypass the authority of the Security Council under the Charter, including that relating to practical preparation for peace-keeping operations, would aggravate the difficulties of the Committee in searching for solutions to questions pertaining to peace-keeping operations.

9. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations could not reach agreement on how to carry out its mandate. Despite the difficulties facing the Special Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate, it is believed that the importance of the issues is such that the mandate of the Special Committee should be renewed.
