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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/1001) on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.
2. The Committee's consideration of the Secretary-General's report was on the basis of an advance text in English; members of the Committee have agreed to such a procedure with increasing frequency, especially with regard to peace-keeping operations, in an effort to respond to urgent situations and also to conform to the schedule of the Fifth Committee. Aside from the burden this places on members who legitimately would prefer to work in one of the other official languages of the United Nations, the Committee points out that the Secretary-General's reports are frequently corrected or otherwise changed before circulation in final form; this makes it more difficult for the Committee to ensure the accuracy of its own reports. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will redouble his efforts to ensure timely submission of final documentation, in all languages, to the Committee.
3. By its resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, the Security Council recommended that the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus be established and be stationed in Cyprus for a period of three months, with a mandate to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions. The costs of UNFICYP were to be met by the Governments providing the contingents and by the Government of Cyprus; the Secretary-General has also accepted voluntary contributions for UNFICYP. In paragraph 41 of his report, the Secretary-General refers to amounts which have not been reimbursed to certain troop contributors in respect of past mandate periods.

4. UNFICYP became operational on 27 March 1964. Since then the Security Council has extended the duration of the mandate of UNFICYP mainly for six-month periods, most recently by resolution 839 (1993) of 11 June 1993, by which the mandate was extended from 16 June to 15 December 1993.

5. For the period beginning on 16 June 1993, the Secretary-General has proposed that the costs of UNFICYP which are not covered by voluntary contributions should be assessed on Member States from that date and that a new special account should be established.

6. As indicated in paragraph 33 of the report, the Government of Cyprus, by a letter dated 15 April 1993 to the Secretary-General, conveyed its offer to contribute, on a continuing basis, that is, for the period beginning on 16 June 1993 and future periods, a voluntary contribution equal to one third of the annual cost of UNFICYP. In a subsequent letter dated 10 May 1993, the Government of Cyprus confirmed that its voluntary contribution for the 12-month period beginning on 16 June 1993 would be increased to \$18.5 million.

7. By a letter dated 7 May 1993, the Government of Greece informed the Secretary-General of its decision to increase its annual voluntary contribution to UNFICYP to \$6.5 million, provided that there is a decision to base the financing of UNFICYP on assessed contributions and that the structure and the strength of the Force, that is, at least six companies, remain unchanged.

8. The Secretary-General estimates that the cost of maintaining UNFICYP for the current mandate period of six months from 16 June to 15 December 1993 is \$21,512,000 gross (\$21,153,300 net). Taking into account voluntary contributions of \$12,500,000, the Secretary-General is proposing an appropriation of the amount of \$9,012,000 gross (\$8,653,300 net) and the apportionment thereof, for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1993.

9. The Committee points out that it is for the General Assembly to decide on how the expenditures of UNFICYP are to be financed. It therefore submits its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs below without prejudice to any decision the General Assembly may take on the question of financing.

10. The Committee notes that, in its resolution 831 (1993) of 27 May 1993, the Security Council decided to conduct a comprehensive reassessment of UNFICYP at the time of the consideration of the Force's mandate in December 1993. The Committee requests the Secretary-General, following that reassessment, to report to the General Assembly on the administrative and financial aspects of such decisions as the Security Council may take.

11. The Security Council, in its resolution 831 (1993), decided that UNFICYP should be restructured, as a first step, on the basis of the proposal set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 of the Secretary-General's report of 30 March 1993 (S/25492), that is, at a strength of three infantry battalions of approximately 350 personnel each, with the addition of a limited number of military observers.

12. The operational plan for UNFICYP called for by the Security Council in its resolution 831 (1993) is outlined in paragraphs 5 to 11 of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/47/1001). As stated in paragraph 9 of the report, the current authorized troop strength of the Force is 1,323,

consisting of infantry personnel (1,050), support personnel, including 37 military personnel forming the headquarters unit (223), civilian police (38) and military observers (12).

13. For operational purposes, UNFICYP will be divided into three sectors covered by three battalions. The Committee was informed that at the present time only two battalions were physically available to UNFICYP and that a third battalion was tentatively scheduled to arrive in early September 1993. The Committee points out that, should that schedule not be met, there will be savings for the period for each day of delay after 1 September 1993.

14. The Committee understands that certain of the standard rates used in the calculations in the budget estimates have been adjusted as the result of the Secretary-General's proposal on the financing of UNFICYP. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to review those rates and to justify fully any change from the standard rates used prior to 16 June 1993, in the report requested in paragraph 10 above.

15. In the opinion of the Committee, the role and functions of the military observers being introduced in UNFICYP are still to be defined. The Committee expects that that will be done on the basis of experience gained during the current mandate and explained in the context of the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General (see para. 10 above).

16. The Committee notes from annex II, table I, of the report that, at this stage, the Secretary-General is proposing an increase of 21 posts in the current civilian staffing component of UNFICYP of 452 posts. Of the 21 additional proposed posts, 8 are in the Field Service category and 13 are local staff. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the existing 414 and the proposed additional 13 local personnel are, and would continue to be, obtained through contractual services from the United Kingdom Command Secretariat, and as such they are not United Nations personnel.

17. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to review, in the context of his forthcoming report (see para. 10 above), the level of staffing provided for under that contractual arrangement and to ascertain whether the services required by the Force warrant such a level of personnel. Pending such a review the Committee does not recommend approval of the additional 13 posts. For similar reasons the Committee does not recommend approval of the eight additional posts in the Field Service category at this stage. The total resultant savings for six months would be \$241,500 gross (\$210,200 net).

18. Having considered the job descriptions relating to international staff set out in annex VIII to the report and the additional information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee is not convinced that the functions of the existing spokesman (P-5) post cannot be combined with those of the existing Senior Adviser (D-1) post. In this connection the Committee also believes that some of the non-technical functions of the Field Service posts listed in annex VIII could either be combined or performed by locally recruited personnel.

19. The Committee notes that provision is made for 50 consultancy days at \$568 per day, together with subsistence allowance at \$204 per day for 50 days

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for the non-resident Special Representative of the Secretary-General. In addition, there is a Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General who is at the Assistant Secretary-General level and resident in Cyprus. The Committee believes that this arrangement requires additional clarification and justification, especially as concerns the consultant status of the Special Representative (see para. 10 above).

20. The Committee notes that in recent months the Secretary-General has appointed a number of representatives and envoys and in this connection reiterates its view (see A/47/990) that there is a need for a clear statement of the rationale for the establishment of posts at the Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels. Furthermore the Committee believes that not only should there be a policy for the establishment of such high-level posts but that criteria for determining the related emoluments should also be established.

21. The Committee was informed that when the Secretary-General's cost estimates for UNFICYP were being prepared it was not known how much equipment, with the exception of some communications equipment, could be obtained from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). In this connection, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to review the situation vis-à-vis the disposition of UNTAC assets and to report to it in the context of the report requested in paragraph 10 above.

22. With regard to transport operation costs, as reflected in paragraph 31 of annex II, provision has been made in the estimates for the acquisition of 16 vehicles at a cost of \$126,600. The Committee was informed that those vehicles were obtained at favourable rates from the departing Canadian contingent. The proposed distribution of vehicles is set out in annex V. From the information provided to it, the Committee believes that the number of vehicles proposed should be revised.

23. The Committee was informed that humanitarian activities in the area were not on the scale or of the nature of the humanitarian activities associated with other recent peace-keeping operations. In UNFICYP those activities have traditionally included facilitating family reunion visits between the two communities in Cyprus, the delivery of medicines and pension cheques to enclosed communities, supervision of medical evacuations, and facilitating communications between authorities of public utilities. The Committee was informed that while those activities require relatively few UNFICYP personnel, they have a vital impact in improvement of intercommunal relations.

24. In view of the general observations and recommendations set out above, particularly in paragraph 17, the Committee believes that the cost for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1993 should not exceed \$21,271,000 gross (\$20,943,000 net). Should the General Assembly decide that the costs of UNFICYP which are not covered by voluntary contributions should be assessed on Member States, the resulting appropriation should not exceed \$8,771,000 gross (\$8,443,000 net).
