



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/824
6 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 76

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

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Catherine von HEIDENSTAM (Sweden)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/49 of 8 December 1989.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, 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 17th, 19th, 21st and 27th meetings, on 20, 21, 23 and 28 November 1990 (see A/SPC/45/SR.17, 19, 21 and 27).
4. In connection with item 76, the Special Political Committee had before it the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/45/330).
5. The Committee also had before it reports of the Secretary-General on requirements for United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/45/217); on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502); on training manuals for peace-keeping (A/45/572); on a model status-of-forces agreement for peace-keeping operations (A/45/594); and on standard operating procedures for peace-keeping operations (A/45/602).
6. Also before the Committee were letters dated 19 January 1990, 27 February 1990 and 23 April 1990 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

addressed to the Secretary General (A/45/90-S/21098; A/45/155-S/21174; and A/45/229-S/21267), and a letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Head of the Delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/626-S/21869).

7. The Committee also had before it document A/SPC/45/L.10/Add.1, containing a letter dated 14 November 1990 from the Chairman of the Special Political Committee addressed to the President of the General Assembly transmitting a letter dated 14 November 1990 from the Chairman of the Special Political Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee forwarding a letter dated 13 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee transmitting the views of his delegation on programme 1 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

8. At the 17th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/45/330).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/45/L.26

9. At the 19th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" (A/SPC/45/L.26), sponsored by Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Nigeria and Poland.

10. On 26 November, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submitted a statement (A/SPC/45/L.36) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

11. At the 27th meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced the draft resolution (A/SPC/45/L.26).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 14).

13. The Chairman referred to paragraph 28 of the draft resolution, which envisaged a series of meetings for the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations during 1991, and observed that a number of delegations had expressed their wish to have a time indicated for the envisaged series of meetings in 1991 so that they could make the necessary plans and preparations. In this connection, he stated that he had been advised that, following informal consultations among members of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and also after inquiries to the Department of Conference Services about the availability of facilities and services, the provisional dates for the 1991 series of meetings were 6 to 31 May 1991. This arrangement did not exclude the possibility of the Special Committee to hold other meetings, as required, since it had been so authorized by the General Assembly. The Special Political Committee decided that a provision to this effect would be included in the Rapporteur's report to the General Assembly.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

14. 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, 41/67 of 3 December 1986, 42/161 of 8 December 1987, 43/59 A of 6 December 1988 and 44/49 of 8 December 1989,

Welcoming the progress made by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations during its session in 1990 and, in particular, the agreement reached on a number of conclusions and recommendations,

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

Taking into account that increasing activities in the field of United Nations peace-keeping require increasing human, financial and material resources for the Organization,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces and of the heavy burden on the troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

Emphasizing that the current political atmosphere is propitious for achieving further progress in the work of the Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the fact that constructive exchanges of views on various practical aspects of peace-keeping operations can contribute favourably to the smooth and effective functioning of these operations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, 1/

Having examined the report of the Special Committee, 2/

1. Takes note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations;
2. Notes with appreciation the preparation by the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/49, of his report on requirements for United Nations peace-keeping operations 3/ and of a questionnaire on that subject;
3. Invites Member States to complete the questionnaire as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the early preparation by the Secretary-General of a registry, indicative in nature, of potential contributions by Member States of personnel, material and technical resources and services;
4. Looks forward to the completion by the Secretary-General of the other studies and documents requested in resolution 44/49;
5. Emphasizes again the need to ensure a secure and sound financial basis for United Nations peace-keeping operations;
6. Reiterates its call upon all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time and encourages again those States which can do so to make voluntary contributions that are acceptable to the Secretary-General;
7. Stresses the importance of the need to reimburse outstanding dues of troop-contributing countries;
8. Decides to consider, in the competent bodies, as a matter of priority, practical means of adequately securing the financing of the start-up phases of peace-keeping operations;
9. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to examine all aspects of peace-keeping operations in order to ensure that they are conducted in an efficient and cost-effective manner;
10. Welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General in preparing a model agreement between the United Nations and Member States contributing personnel to peace-keeping operations, while maintaining the flexibility needed to encompass different possible circumstances;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/45/1).

2/ A/45/330.

3/ A/45/217.

11. Reiterates its appeal to host countries of any United Nations peace-keeping operations and all directly interested parties to extend all possible support in order to facilitate the deployment and functioning of such operations, and urges them to respect and safeguard the security of United Nations peace-keepers;

12. Urges again host countries to conclude status-of-forces agreements with the United Nations as soon as possible upon the establishment of a peace-keeping operation;

13. Considers that the composition of United Nations peace-keeping operations, taken as a whole, should be on a wide geographical basis, while the composition of each operation would be consistent with particular requirements thereof;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed report on the successfully concluded operation of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group;

15. Welcomes the seminars and other exchanges of views on peace-keeping operations among Member States and interested organizations, with the participation of Secretariat officials, that have taken place and encourages the holding of regional and international seminars, in consultation with the Secretariat, as appropriate, in the future;

16. Again encourages Member States to establish training programmes for personnel for peace-keeping operations and looks forward to the completion by the Secretary-General, in accordance with resolution 44/49, of training manuals, which Member States might wish to use as guidelines for their training programmes;

17. Encourages those Member States with national or regional training programmes to give access to those programmes, as appropriate, to other interested Member States;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for Member States a factual report describing the responsibilities, functions and structures of the various Secretariat units dealing with peace-keeping operations, including details of overload posts;

19. Encourages studies on the possible application of high technology to peace-keeping operations, where it would enhance their efficiency;

20. Considers it useful to have further discussions, in the appropriate forums, including the Special Committee, on the possible fields for peace-keeping and on the further development of peace-keeping operations;

21. Invites the Secretary-General to consider appropriate ways of honouring the services of United Nations peace-keepers, bearing in mind that the United Nations peace-keeping forces were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1988;

22. Stresses the importance of maintaining the flow of information between the United Nations Secretariat and Member States, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its practice of providing regular informal briefings on current and potential peace-keeping operations;

23. Encourages States contributing personnel and other interested States to hold informal consultations, as appropriate, on operational and technical matters relating to the practical aspects of peace-keeping operations;

24. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Secretariat of the United Nations to the work of the Special Committee, and encourages the further development of this co-operation;

25. Encourages the contribution to the Special Committee's work of experts and bodies having specialized expertise in peace-keeping and the conduct of peace-keeping operations;

26. Urges the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, to continue its efforts 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 and the need for maximum cost efficiency;

27. Decides that the Special Committee shall accept the participation of observers of Member States, including in the meetings of its working groups;

28. Invites Member States to submit any further observations and suggestions on peace-keeping operations to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1991, outlining proposals on specific items in order to allow for more detailed consideration of the Special Committee, with particular emphasis on practical proposals to make these operations more effective;

29. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee by 30 March 1991;

30. Requests the Special Committee to consider authorizing its Bureau to prepare, in advance of the commencement of the session in 1991, a draft working document based on the submissions of Member States to the Secretary-General, containing specific items and elements for possible consideration by the Special Committee;

31. Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

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