

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE 99th
MEETING**



Monday, 3 November 1958,
at 3.15 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 65:	
United Nations Emergency Force (continued):	
(b) Progress report on the Force (concluded)	59

Chairman: Mr. Mihai MAGHERU (Romania).

AGENDA ITEM 65

United Nations Emergency Force (continued):

(b) Progress report on the Force (A/3899, A/SPC/L.26/Rev.1) (concluded)

1. The CHAIRMAN proposed, in accordance with the request made by the Mexican delegation at the previous meeting, that the report of the Committee should mention the fact that the financial period to which the draft resolution related coincided with the financial year beginning 1 January and ending 31 December 1959.

It was so decided.

2. Mr. BROWNE (Canada), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.26/Rev.1), accepted the first amendment proposed by the representative of Mexico (98th meeting), under which the word "take" in the operative paragraph would be replaced by the word "recommend". He regretted, however, that he could not accept the second amendment because of the possible implications of the expression "on an equitable basis". That might be taken to mean, for example, that the scale of contributions previously applied had not been equitable or that the Fifth Committee might make recommendations which would not be equitable. In any case, it was the function of the Fifth Committee to determine the basis for financing the Force.

3. Mr. BELTRANENA VALLADARES (Guatemala) emphasized the stabilizing role of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Near East and paid a tribute to Lieutenant-General Burns, its Commander, and to the Secretary-General. He found it discouraging that some Member States had announced that they would not participate in the financing of the Force on the grounds that the expenses relating to its operation should be borne solely by the States responsible for the aggression which had led to the establishment of the Force. Such statements were the more disconcerting as they came from countries whose international policy had made the maintenance of the Emergency Force a necessity. By its mere presence, the Emergency Force prevented any breaches of the peace and exerted a moderating influence; by its action, it served the entire community of nations. With regard to the legal aspect, the assertion that expenses arising out of the maintenance of the Emergency

Force should be borne solely by the aggressor States would be tantamount to the claim that in any society the cost of the administration of justice should be defrayed by the offenders alone. Such a view was manifestly untenable. His delegation considered that the maintenance of world peace was the collective responsibility of all the Members of the United Nations and that, with regard to financing the Emergency Force, each Member State should contribute to the common cause. Its attitude in the matter was completely disinterested. Like other Latin American republics, Guatemala was essentially a peaceful country. Differences of opinion which had arisen between those States had always been peacefully settled by agencies of proved efficiency such as the Organization of American States or the Organization of Central American States. The Emergency Force could therefore render no direct service to the American continent.

4. His delegation would have reservations to make regarding the method of financing used thus far, which did not appear to be very fair, and it would explain its views on that point in the Fifth Committee.

5. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution if it was so amended as to conform to the position of his delegation.

6. Mr. CHHATARI (Pakistan) congratulated Lieutenant-General Burns, Commander of the Emergency Force, the Secretary-General, all the members of the Force and all the members of the Secretariat who had been concerned with the Force, for the able manner in which they had performed a difficult task. His delegation was glad to note that expenditure for 1958 had been reduced and that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions believed further economies to be possible. Economies should not, however, be made to the detriment of efficiency, because no price was too high for the maintenance of international peace and security. His delegation recognized the importance of the peace-making role of the Force, whose establishment had ended the armed conflict which had broken out in the Middle East in 1956, a conflict whose seriousness had been a challenge to the very existence of the United Nations. It was of the opinion that the Emergency Force must be kept in operation. He fully agreed with the statement by the Secretary-General that "Experience indicates the validity of the view that the most equitable collective arrangement is one which distributes among the membership as a whole those costs which a participating Government would not otherwise have incurred" (A/3943, para. 118). His delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution before the Committee and hoped that it would be adopted by a very large majority.

7. Mr. SANCHEZ BELLA (Spain) paid a tribute to the Secretary-General and to Lieutenant-General

Burns for their efforts in enabling the Emergency Force to accomplish its task efficiently. His delegation approved the preamble to the draft resolution. With regard to the operative part, it shared the views expressed by the representatives of Argentina, Venezuela, Cuba and the Dominican Republic at the 97th and 98th meetings, and by the representative of Guatemala, and it regarded the Mexican amendments as helpful. Inasmuch as the Force had been established by a resolution which the General Assembly had adopted with virtual unanimity, it was logical that all the Members of the Organization should help in the financing of the Force. His Government was prepared to bear its share of the costs arising out of the implementation of General Assembly decisions.

8. However, it was not fair that in apportioning the expenses relating to the Force, which were manifestly of an unusual character, the criterion of national per caput income, which was used to determine the scale of contributions to the United Nations regular budget, should be retained. In fairness, the Fifth Committee should, in apportioning expenses, take into account the fact that Article 24 of the Charter laid the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security on certain Powers. The assessments of Member States should therefore vary in accordance with that criterion. His delegation felt that several proposals along those lines should be submitted to the Fifth Committee by the Secretary-General, and it hoped that an equitable system of apportioning contributions could be agreed upon by a unanimous decision so that the Force might be continued in operation.

9. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution and would explain his views on the financial arrangements in detail before the Fifth Committee, which was the competent body in that regard.

10. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for accepting the first of his delegation's two amendments. He regretted that they were unable to accept the second amendment in spite of the fact that it had been deliberately worded in an absolutely neutral manner in order not to prejudice in any way the meaning of the expression "on an equitable basis" which it was proposed to add. As the Fifth Committee would undoubtedly be discussing the question thoroughly, his delegation would not insist on a vote on the second amendment in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of the discussion.

11. However, in order to retain complete freedom to restate and defend Mexico's well-known position on the matter in the Assembly and the Fifth Committee, his delegation would be obliged to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

12. Mr. SCILINGO (Argentina) said that he would have voted for the second Mexican amendment. However, as the matter would be dealt with at the proper time in the Fifth Committee, he would vote for the draft resolution.

13. Mr. PLAZA (Venezuela) said that he did not understand how there could be any objection to an amendment calling for an equitable distribution of expenses among Member States. The Venezuelan delegation would have voted for the Mexican amend-

ment, but as that amendment had been withdrawn, he would abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

14. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) found it hard to understand that some delegations were apparently unable to vote for the draft resolution because the second Mexican amendment had been withdrawn. The Fifth Committee was a Committee of the General Assembly, and the situation of the General Assembly admonishing itself to be equitable would, to say the least, be somewhat odd. The Fifth Committee was clearly bound to make its recommendations on the basis of equity. The Australian representative in the Fifth Committee would certainly cast his vote with full regard for considerations of equity.

15. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) did not see why the General Assembly could not ask the Fifth Committee to establish on an equitable basis the necessary measures for maintaining the Force. The delegation of Uruguay shared the views expressed by the Mexican representative and would have the opportunity, both in the Fifth Committee and in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to urge that the problem of apportioning costs should be resolved on an equitable basis.

16. Mr. KHAN (India) pointed out that the joint draft resolution, of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, did not prejudice in any way the question of how the cost was to be shared. On that matter the delegation of India had some very definite views which would be explained in the Fifth Committee.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Lieutenant-General E. L. M. Burns, Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, took a place at the Committee table.

17. Lieutenant-General BURNS (Commander, United Nations Emergency Force) thanked the delegations which had commended the work of the Emergency Force. During the period which had elapsed since the Secretary-General's report (A/3899) had been issued, the situation on the demarcation line along the Gaza Strip and along the international frontier in the Sinai Peninsula had remained the same. Incidents were very infrequent and not serious. Whereas, in 1956, incidents along the demarcation line had been of almost daily occurrence, today, in the watchful presence of United Nations Emergency Force sentries, the Arabs could be seen cultivating their lands and grazing their flocks on one side of the line, while on the other side the inhabitants of the Israel settlements were going about their agricultural occupations. The members of the Force realized the full importance and significance of the task which had been laid upon them by the General Assembly of the United Nations. They were doing their duty conscientiously, and their morale was very good.

18. It had been possible to attain that satisfactory state of affairs because there were enough soldiers to watch the whole area. Any further decrease in the number of troops might impair the effectiveness of the task which had been entrusted to the Force. He concluded by paying a tribute to the successive contingents of the several contributing nations, to the officers of the staff of UNEF headquarters and to the members of the United Nations Secretariat attached to the Force, all of whom had shown the utmost devotion to duty.

Lieutenant-General Burns withdrew.

19. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the revised draft resolution (A/SPC/L.26/Rev.1), as amended (see paragraph 2 above).

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 49 votes to 9, with 13 abstentions.

20. Mr. PETROS (Ethiopia) explained that his delegation's vote in favour of the draft resolution did not imply approval of the present financial arrangements for the Force. His delegation reserved the right to

express its views on the subject in the Fifth Committee.

21. The Ethiopian delegation paid a tribute to the way in which the Commander and the members of the Force were performing their task and cherished the hope that the Member States directly concerned would take the necessary steps for the maintenance of peace in that area and thus render the Force's presence unnecessary.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.