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QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM 1 TO 10 NOVEMBER 1956

Statement Made by the Representative of the Secretary-
General at the 538th Meeting of the Fifth Committee on
27 November 1956

1. On behalf of the Secretary-General and after consultation with the Committee Chairman and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, may I venture to raise certain procedural matters to which the Fifth Committee may wish to give its attention as a result of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly yesterday afternoon on the subject of administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations Emergency Force.
2. In the draft resolution adopted at its 596th meeting on 26 November, the General Assembly has taken the following decisions with respect to administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations Emergency Force:
 - (i) It has authorized the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Emergency Force Special Account in an initial amount of \$10 million;
 - (ii) It has authorized the Secretary-General, pending the receipt of funds for this Account, to advance from the Working Capital Fund such sums as may be required to meet any expenses chargeable to it;
 - (iii) It has requested the Secretary-General to establish such rules and procedures for the Special Account and to make such administrative arrangements as he considers necessary for ensuring the effective administrative and financial control of the Account.

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3. Finally, the General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of the resolution in question, has asked the Fifth Committee and, as appropriate, the Advisory Committee, to consider and to report on, as soon as possible, further arrangements that need to be adopted regarding the costs of maintaining the Force.

4. The Secretary-General is confident that Members of the Fifth Committee will wish, in compliance with the General Assembly's request, to proceed with this urgent and important assignment with all possible expedition. He would like, therefore, in the hope of facilitating its task, to put before the Committee certain suggestions as to immediate procedure. It will be apparent that certain of the questions which are still to be resolved give rise to considerations which cannot easily be discussed and decided in administrative and financial terms alone - which necessarily involve, that is to say, wider and more far-reaching policy and other implications. Equally, there are other more restricted, though important issues which are somewhat technical in nature and which therefore lend themselves to prior study and review by an expert body such as the Advisory Committee.

5. With the Fifth Committee's consent, the Secretary-General would suggest that the Committee leave aside, for the moment, what is perhaps the most basic issue on which the General Assembly has requested its advice, namely, the method to be adopted of allocating to Member States the costs for the Force which are to be financed by the United Nations. In this connexion, the Secretary-General would appreciate the opportunity of submitting a proposal in due course for the consideration of the Committee.

6. There are, nevertheless, a number of specific questions to which reference is made in the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/3383) which, if the Fifth Committee so agrees, might be referred immediately to the Advisory Committee for urgent consideration and report back to the Fifth Committee. The Secretary-General, therefore, ventures to suggest that the Advisory Committee might be asked to take up, without delay, the following matters:

- (i) Consideration of the administrative and financial aspects of the provisional arrangements upon which the establishment and organization of the Force is proceeding, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/3383);

- (ii) The problem of assuring necessary cash requirements, with reference particularly to the proposal made in paragraph 4 (b) of the original draft resolution contained in Annex I of A/3383, i.e., that the Secretary-General be authorized, where necessary, to arrange for loans to the Special Account from appropriate sources, including Governments and international agencies; provided that the repayment of any such advances or loans to the Special Account shall constitute a first charge against contributions as they are received. It would, of course, be understood that any consideration of cash requirements would, at this stage, be without prejudice to such decisions concerning the allocation of costs as the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly may ultimately take.
- (iii) Arrangements that should be made, as a matter of particular urgency, with respect to compensation for service-incurred death or disability. In this connexion, the Secretary-General calls attention to paragraphs 12 to 14 of his report (A/3383).

7. While the resolution adopted by the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to establish necessary rules and procedures for the Special Account and to make necessary administrative arrangements to ensure effective financial administration, the Secretary-General would nevertheless welcome the views and suggestions of the Advisory Committee in this regard, particularly in the matter of audit arrangements. It will be noted in this latter connexion that the Secretary-General has informed the Assembly that it is his intention, in view of the scope and complexity of the financial operations involved, to make special arrangements for a continuing independent audit of all transactions concerning the Force.

8. If the Fifth Committee agrees to these questions being referred immediately to the Advisory Committee, as suggested, the Secretary-General would appeal to the Chairman of that Committee for his co-operation and that of his colleagues in ensuring that the Committee's views and recommendations are made available in the course of the next few days.

9. Finally, the Secretary-General believes it would be helpful to reiterate two points he made in the course of his statement to the General Assembly on 26 November 1956. First, it should be emphasized that the resolution adopted and the matters which are now before the Fifth Committee relate solely and

exclusively to arrangements regarding the Emergency Force and in no way to other responsibilities which the United Nations may acquire in the area. Secondly, that while funds received and payments made with respect to the Force are to be considered as falling outside the regular budget of the United Nations, the operation is necessarily and essentially a United Nations responsibility, and the Special Account that has been established must therefore be considered as coming within the scope and meaning of Article 17 of the Charter. The Secretary-General will, in consequence, be obligated to follow to a maximum degree the regular financial rules and regulations of the Organization, as well as the machinery and processes that have been laid down by the General Assembly for the purpose of financial review and control.
