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MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Milton Fowler GREGG (Canada).

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he was very sensible of the compliment which the Committee had paid to his country and himself in electing him Chairman. He looked forward to a period of fruitful collaboration in the Committee, which was starting its work in an atmosphere of cordial goodwill and with the determination to examine all the items on its agenda with the aim of enabling the United Nations to carry out its tasks.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

2. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) nominated Mr. Hakim M. Ahson (Pakistan).

3. Mr. CUTLER (Australia) and Mr. KIA (Iran) supported the nomination.

Mr. Ahson (Pakistan) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

4. Mr. AHSON (Pakistan) thanked the Committee for the honour it had done his country and himself by electing him Vice-Chairman. He was confident that the Committee would be able to consider the items on its agenda, which were of the utmost importance for the operation and the future of the United Nations, in a constructive and co-operative spirit.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPOREUR

5. Mr. AKUDE (Ghana) nominated Mr. Raouf Boudjakdji (Algeria).

6. Mr. MHEDHEBI (Tunisia) supported the nomination.

Mr. Boudjakdji (Algeria) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

7. Mr. BOUDJAKDJI (Algeria) thanked the Committee for its expression of confidence in him.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK
(A/C.5/980, A/C.5/L.791)**

8. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the General Assembly had taken a number of decisions relating to the conduct of business. It had fixed 20 December 1963 as the closing date of its eighteenth session; the work

of the Committee should therefore be completed some days before that date. It was essential that no time should be lost by the late starting or early closure of meetings; he appealed to delegations to make the fullest use of the time available. In that connexion he referred to paragraphs 43 and 44 and annex VII of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Improvement of the Methods of Work of the General Assembly (A/5423). It would be helpful if speeches were delivered clearly and at an appropriate pace.

9. He drew attention to the Committee's agenda (A/C.5/980) and to the proposed schedule in the consideration of the items (A/C.5/L.791). In addition to the items already on its agenda the Committee would no doubt be called upon during the session to report, under rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and budgetary implications of decisions taken by other Main Committees of the General Assembly. He assumed that the Committee would wish to follow the usual practice of asking the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to consider such items and report on them. The Committee would also have to hold several elections to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. He would be grateful if representatives wishing to submit nominations would do so as soon as possible, to enable the Committee to act on them at a convenient time. Delegations which wished to follow past practice in making general statements covering various aspects of the agenda would have an opportunity to do so in the course of the first reading of the budget estimates for the financial year 1964. In the absence of any objection he would assume that the procedure he had outlined was acceptable to the Committee.

10. Mr. IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Leopoldville) proposed that agenda item 59 entitled "United Nations Operation in the Congo: cost estimates", which was listed fourth in the proposed schedule (A/C.5/L.791) should be considered first. By letter dated 22 August 1963 addressed to the Secretary-General, and which appears as annex I to the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, dated 17 September 1963,^{1/} the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo had requested that a reduced United Nations contingent should be retained until the end of June 1964. As could be seen from his report the Secretary-General had expressed the wish that a decision in the matter should be taken as early as possible so that he and the Congolese Government could make the necessary arrangements. In the circumstances it was important that the Committee should consider the item as a matter of urgency.

11. With that end in view it was desirable that the Controller should submit estimates for the retention

^{1/} *Official Records of the Security Council, Eighteenth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1963, document S/5428.*

of a force of 5,000 men, the figure mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report and that the Advisory Committee should take up the matter without delay.

12. Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria) said that the proposal by the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville) was supported by the thirty-two independent African States. Stability in the heart of Africa was at stake, and it would be a great tragedy if, after all the efforts and sacrifices of recent years, the United Nations was to withdraw from the Congo prematurely, especially as no new action on the same scale would be possible.

13. The Congolese Government was requesting the retention of United Nations troops in order that it might be able to proceed with the reorganization and deployment of its own forces. The Government of the Congo was not entirely to blame for the fact that its forces would not be ready to take over by the end of 1963. He felt that in the matter of the retention of the United Nations Force in the Congo the wishes of the Congolese Government should be paramount.

14. It was essential that the financial implications should be examined immediately so that the cost of the operation could be included in the budget estimates for 1964. The Committee would note that whereas the Government of the Congo had requested that the reduced United Nations contingent should number 3,000 men, senior United Nations military advisers had expressed the view that its strength should not be below 6,000 men. He considered that a compromise between the two views was possible.

15. Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) said that while he had no serious objections to the proposal made by the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville), he noticed from document A/C.5/L.791 that no documentation had so far been issued on agenda item 59. He asked what was the status of documentation with regard to that item.

16. Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) said that he disagreed with the Congolese representative's proposal. The Secretary-General had submitted to the Security Council a report on the question of military disengagement in the Congo,^{2/} and in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization (A/5501/Add.1, sect. V) he had indicated that he sincerely believed that the time had come when it was necessary to envisage the early withdrawal and winding-up of the United Nations Force in the Congo and when the Congolese Government should assume full responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. He was certain that the Secretary-General had reached that conclusion after a most thorough consideration of the question.

17. What was needed at that stage was not financial estimates but a political decision by the competent United Nations organ concerning the future of the United Nations Operation in the Congo. The proposal that priority should be given to agenda item 59 "and the request for financial estimates for the retention of the United Nations Force in the Congo beyond 31 December 1963 sounded like an attempt to by-pass the Security Council at a time when it had the Secretary-General's report before it. He asked that the order of priority proposed in document A/C.5/L.791 should be followed.

18. Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria) disagreed. The necessary political decisions had already been taken. As the

Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 3 of his report to the Council no specific terminal date for the Force had been set by any Security Council resolution. The General Assembly, however, had adopted resolution 1876 (X-IV) which, in the absence of any subsequent action, established, in effect, a terminal date. The item before the Committee was a purely financial one, namely the financial implications of a possible decision by the General Assembly to extend the Force beyond the date envisaged in resolution 1876 (S-IV). He hoped that political considerations would not interfere with the work of the Committee and, in particular, that the will of the African peoples to see stability reign in their continent would prevail and that that stability would not be upset for reasons of international politics.

19. Mr. NUMVIYABAGOBO (Rwanda) supported the proposal of the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville).

20. Mr. IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Leopoldville) emphasized that his delegation had merely requested that priority should be given to one of the items before the Committee. It had made no reference to the item's substantive or political aspects which were a matter for another body. He was therefore surprised that the Polish representative should have seen political motives in the request, the purpose of which had been simply to allow the Committee to consider a purely financial question.

21. There had not been, as the Polish representative had suggested, any decision by the Secretary-General not to maintain troops in the Congo. In his report to the Security Council on the question of military disengagement in the Congo, the Secretary-General had only stated:

"Although no specific terminal date for the Force has been set by any Security Council resolution, the General Assembly, at its fourth special session on 27 June 1963, adopted a resolution (1876 (S-IV)) which, in the absence of any subsequent action, establishes, in effect, a terminal date."^{2/}

The Secretary-General had also stated:

"Therefore, any extension of the Force beyond the end of this year will require new action by the General Assembly providing financial support for the Force. I have made this clear in all of my consultations and, of course, I am emphasizing it in my report to the Security Council, where I also warn that any such action in the Assembly must be taken without delay".^{3/}

22. Mr. KIA (Iran) proposed that the Committee should vote on the Congolese proposal. Discussion of any other matter was out of order at present, particularly since no documentation had yet been issued on the item referred to by the Congolese representative.

23. Mr. ROSHCIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the statement by the Nigerian representative, who had referred to such matters as the number of troops required in the Congo and the period for which they would be required, clearly indicated the substantive and political nature of the proposal before the Committee. Under the Charter, the question of the maintenance of the Force in the Congo could be decided only by the Security Council. The Committee should take up the items on the agenda in the order

^{2/} *Ibid.*, para. 3.

^{3/} *Ibid.*, annex II.

proposed in document A/C.5/L.791; action by it on agenda item 59 could then be taken only after the appropriate decision by the competent organ. Bearing particularly in mind the absence of any documentation on that item, his delegation supported the Polish representative's request that the order of priority proposed in document A/C.5/L.791 should be followed.

24. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan) said that the Congolese representative's proposal was purely procedural and the Committee was fully competent to act on it. The question of consideration by the Security Council of the future of the United Nations Force in the Congo was not relevant to the present discussion. An item similar to agenda item 59 had been before the General Assembly since 1960 and it had never before been considered necessary for Security Council action regarding the continuance of the Force to precede consideration by the General Assembly of the cost of maintaining the Force. Under operative paragraph 2 of the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 14 July 1960,^{4/} the Secretary-General had been given a continuing mandate to provide the Government of the Republic of the Congo with military assistance "until, through the efforts of the Congolese Government with the technical assistance of the United Nations, the national security forces may be able, in the opinion of the Government, to meet fully their tasks". The opinion of that Government, expressed by its representative, was that the assistance should be continued for a further period. There was, of course, nothing to prevent the Security Council from deciding that the United Nations Operation in the Congo should cease, but no such decision had been taken nor was it inevitable. Moreover, under the Security Council resolution, the Secretary-General was authorized to take steps "in consultation with the Government of the Republic of the Congo". The views of that Government were now perfectly clear.

25. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) said that the Congolese proposal, as explained by the Nigerian representative, related to a matter of major importance and considerable urgency. His delegation agreed that the item should be given priority on the Committee's agenda. That position related solely to the question of procedure, however, and it did not commit his delegation in any way with regard to the substance of the matter.

26. Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) said that his delegation had not objected to priority being given to the consideration of any particular item and had not introduced any political considerations into the discussion. It had merely requested that political decisions should be left to the competent United Nations organ. The Secretary-General had reported on the matter under discussion to the Security Council, and not to the Fifth Committee. In fact, no documentation on agenda item 59 had been submitted to the General Assembly. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to the introduction to the annual report of the Secretary-General, in which the latter had made the following statement:

"In 1963, however, the situation has improved very considerably and, as I mentioned earlier, the United Nations mandate in the Congo, especially in its military aspects, has been largely fulfilled. While

good reasons have been put forward for the continuation of the United Nations military commitment in the Congo, I sincerely believe that the time has come when, for various reasons, it is necessary to envisage the early withdrawal and winding-up of the United Nations Force in the Congo. It can no doubt be argued that some useful tasks could still be performed by the Force, but I am of the opinion that the time has now come when the Congolese Government should assume full responsibility throughout the Congo for the maintenance of law and order" (see A/5501/Add.1, sect. V).

27. His delegation reserved the right to comment on the substance of the question at an appropriate time. In its view, the Committee could take no action until such time as a political decision had been taken and the appropriate documents submitted.

28. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the position of the Secretary-General on the question of the prolongation beyond 31 December 1963 of the United Nations Force in the Congo, and of the necessary strength of such a Force, should the General Assembly appropriate funds for its prolongation, continued to be that set forth in the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council of 17 September 1963. Since that report had been issued, the Secretary-General, of course, had been consulted on the subject by a number of delegations, both pro and con, but his position as previously stated was unchanged.

29. With reference to the matters raised by the representatives of Congo (Leopoldville) and Iraq, he wished to point out that the item "United Nations Operation in the Congo: cost estimates" was on the agenda for the same reasons as in past years since 1960. No documentation had yet been issued on the subject. In any event, even if the military disengagement in the Congo was to be completed by 31 December 1963, certain expenditures would inevitably need to be incurred for some period into 1964. The Secretary-General had therefore felt that in due course financial provision would need to be made for that purpose or that he would at least need to be authorized to commit such unobligated balances as remained available on 31 December 1963.

30. With regard to the question of estimates raised by the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville), he was confident that the Secretariat could, if so requested, furnish within the next two to three days reasonably firm estimates of the cost of maintaining a force of approximately 5,000 men for a period of about six months beyond 31 December 1963.

31. Mr. GANEM (France) suggested that in order to allow time for consultation and further consideration of the matter the decision on the Congolese representative's proposal should be postponed to a later meeting.

32. The CHAIRMAN observed that the agenda item in question would not be discussed, in any event, before 30 September 1963.

The proposal of the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville) that the Committee should first consider agenda item 59 and that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a report on cost estimates for the first half of 1964, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

^{4/} Ibid., Fifteenth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1960, document S/4387.