



Fifteenth session
Agenda item 27(a)

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

Cost estimates for the maintenance of the Force

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. T.W. CUTTS (Australia)

1. The Fifth Committee at its 821st and 822nd meetings held on 16 December considered the estimates for the maintenance of the United Nations Emergency Force for 1961 (A/4396) submitted by the Secretary-General and the pertinent report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/4409).
2. In his foreword to the budget estimates the Secretary-General had expressed the view that the Force continues to provide a stabilizing influence in the Middle East and that it should continue its operations during 1961 at its present strength. The Secretary-General reported that the 1961 operating costs of the Force (part A) show a decrease of \$915,000 from the 1960 appropriation for this purpose although part B (Reimbursement to Governments) shows an increase of \$300,000.
3. The Secretary-General referred to the question of compensation for equipment, material and supplies furnished by Governments to their contingents. In view of the fact that UNEF will soon be in its fifth year of operation, that substantial claims for loss or deterioration of Government-owned equipment and supplies have accrued during the past three and one half years and that increases in such claims must be expected as long as UNEF continues, he

considered that the General Assembly at its fifteenth session should reconsider the original reimbursement policy which it approved at its twelfth session (resolution 1151 (XII)). The Secretary-General expressed further views on this point and put forth recommendations in his Progress Report on the Force (A/4486) in paragraphs 65-70.

4. The Secretary-General furnished information that as of 31 May 1960 unpaid assessments totalled over \$24,000,000. This amount represented 32.5 per cent of the total UNEF assessments for the four years. As a result of the steady increase in the arrears of contributions to the UNEF Special Account, it had been necessary throughout the past year to have advances from the Organization's Working Capital Fund in order to finance current UNEF expenses. At the end of 1959 these totalled slightly under \$3,000,000 but this total would be increased by several million dollars by the end of 1960. He considered the situation so critical as to require an urgent solution.

5. The Secretary-General's 1961 estimates (A/4396) for the expenses of the Force had totalled \$19,384,800. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had reported on these estimates (A/4409) and, while recommending an appropriation of the amount estimated for the purposes of assessment, suggested that efforts should be made to keep the expenses within a target level of \$19,000,000.

6. During the discussion in the Fifth Committee several delegations stated the position of their Governments that UNEF had been established illegally and said that their Governments would not contribute to its maintenance. Other delegations, while not questioning the juridical basis of the Force, considered that the arrangements made for financing it did not take account of different levels of responsibility. Still other delegations favoured inclusion of the costs of the Force in the regular budget of the Organization.

7. At the 821st meeting of the Committee the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom announced that, subject to parliamentary approval, their Governments would make voluntary contributions to the 1961 expenses of the Force. The amounts of the contributions pledged were: United States - \$1,800,000 and United Kingdom - \$135,000.

8. At the 822nd meeting of the Committee the representative of Norway introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.645) submitted by Canada, Denmark, India, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia.
9. At the 822nd meeting of the Committee, the Secretary-General's representative proposed the insertion of the words "pledged prior to 31 December 1960" in line 1 of operative paragraph 3 following the word "contributions". This insertion was accepted by the sponsors and met with the approval of the Committee.
10. At the same meeting the representative of Iraq proposed, as an amendment to the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.645), that the words "made prior to 31 March 1961" should be omitted in operative paragraph 3. The Committee rejected the proposed amendment by 17 votes to 8, with 29 abstentions. The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 31 to 8, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dahomey, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Arab Republic, Venezuela.

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

11. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1089 (XI) of 21 December 1956, 1151 (XII) of 22 November 1957, 1337 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, and 1441 (XIV) of 5 December 1959,

Having considered the observations made by Member States concerning financing of the Force,

Having examined the budget estimates for the Force submitted by the Secretary-General for the year 1961 (A/4396) and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon (A/4409),

Having noted with satisfaction that special financial assistance has been pledged voluntarily towards the expenditures for the Force in 1961,

Considering that it is desirable to apply voluntary contributions of special financial assistance in such a manner as to reduce the financial burden on those Governments which have the least capacity to contribute towards the expenditures for maintaining the Force,

1. Authorizes the Secretary-General to expend up to a maximum of \$19,000,000 for the continuing operation of the Force during 1961;

2. Decides to assess the amount of \$19,000,000 against all Members of the United Nations on the basis of the regular scale of assessments, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 below;

3. Decides further that the voluntary contributions, pledged prior to 31 December 1960, including those already announced and referred to in preambular paragraph 4 above, shall be applied, at a request of the Member State concerned made prior to 31 March 1961, to reduce by up to 50 per cent

(a) the assessment that the Member States admitted during the fifteenth session are required to pay for the financial year 1961 in accordance with resolution ... (XV);

(b) the assessment of all other Member States receiving assistance during 1960 from the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, commencing with those States assessed at the minimum percentage of 0.04 per cent and then including, in order, those States assessed at the next highest percentages until the total amount of the voluntary contributions has been fully applied;

4. Decides that, if Member Governments do not avail themselves of credits provided for in operative paragraph 3, then the amounts involved shall be credited to section 9 of the 1961 budget for the United Nations Emergency Force;

5. Approves the recommendations set forth in paragraphs 67 through 70 of the Secretary-General's Report on the United Nations Emergency Force (A/4486) concerning reimbursement of Governments in respect of supplies, material and equipment furnished to their contingents.
