



Nineteenth session

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to your report on the collection of contributions as at 17 January 1965 (A/5847), the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations considers it necessary to make the following statement.

In the report it is asserted that sixteen States Members of the United Nations, including the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, "should be considered to be in arrears, as at 17 January 1965, in the payment of their contributions to the United Nations, in amounts in excess of the amounts of their assessed contributions for the preceding two full years, namely, 1963 and 1964".

This assertion is groundless and contrary to fundamental provisions of the United Nations Charter. In essence, the report reflects the position of the United States, which claims that expenses connected with the consequences of aggression by imperialist Powers in the Middle East and the Congo must be regarded as part of the regular budget of the Organization and defrayed out of Members' contributions to that budget. Thus those who have burdened the Organization with excessive expenditure, running into many millions, which has resulted in serious financial difficulties for the Organization, are now trying to transfer the responsibility for all this to others.

From the legal standpoint, too, there are no valid grounds for collecting from States Members of the United Nations funds wherewith to defray the cost of the operations in the Middle East and the Congo, since these operations were undertaken and conducted in violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Expenditure on the maintenance of United Nations armed forces, even if such forces were established and used in accordance with the Charter, should be regarded

as special expenditure not forming part of the regular budget referred to in Article 17 of the Charter.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly drawn the Organization's attention to these facts. It did so, in particular, in the statement by the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations of 21 March 1964, the memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR of 11 September 1964, and the statement by the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations of 7 November 1964, as well as in numerous statements made by USSR representatives in various United Nations organs.

It must be pointed out that your report takes into account the position - illegal and contrary to the Charter - adopted by only one group of States, and completely ignores the position of the Soviet Union and other countries which have protested against an arbitrary interpretation of the Charter and the unlawful assessment of them for the payment of expenses connected with the operations in the Middle East and the Congo.

The references in the report to certain of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and to the "relevant resolutions of the General Assembly" are designed merely to provide a show of legal justification for the arbitrary attempt to include expenditure on the operations in the Congo and the Middle East in the regular budget of the United Nations. In actual fact, as is well known, regulations 5.4 and 5.7 of the Financial Regulations deal only with contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations. As for the "relevant resolutions of the General Assembly" these resolutions, which are contrary to the Charter, likewise create no financial obligations for Member States.

From the foregoing it clearly follows that the Soviet Union is not, as indicated in your report, in arrears. The Soviet Union, as everyone knows, scrupulously discharges its financial obligations arising out of the Charter.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations, drawing attention to the unacceptability of a unilateral and arbitrary approach by the United Nations Secretariat to the preparation of reports to the General Assembly, protests against the unlawful designation of the Soviet Union, in your report, as a State in so-called "arrears".

The Permanent Mission requests that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO

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