



Twentieth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

THE AUTHORIZATION AND FINANCING OF FUTURE PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Letter dated 10 September 1965 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 23 August 1965 and the explanatory memorandum attached thereto (A/5966/Rev.1) regarding the inscription of the item entitled "The authorization and financing of future peace-keeping operations" on the agenda of the twentieth session of the General Assembly.

To avoid any possibility of objections being raised on the grounds that a draft resolution on the lines suggested might involve an amendment of the Charter and in order to get immediate action to restore life to the "Uniting for peace" resolution, which is so urgently necessary, the Government have decided to revise the text of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution contained in the explanatory memorandum. Accordingly I enclose herewith the revised text of the explanatory memorandum.

The revision aims at ensuring the same practical effect as was sought to be achieved by the original suggestion; that is that the General Assembly should without delay at the coming session assert its right to mount a peace-keeping force when it is not acceptable to all the permanent members of the Security Council; that when a peace-keeping operation is mounted by the General Assembly it should have the support, material as well as moral, of the majority of the Members of the United Nations, and some support from the permanent members of the Security Council; and that once mounted the operation should be reliably financed to a successful conclusion.

It will be noted that operative paragraph 1 of the previous text has been deleted and replaced by a proposal which is strictly confined to amending the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which the Assembly is entitled to do and has frequently done in the past.

(Signed) C.C. CREMIN
Permanent Representative

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The ultimate objective of the Charter of the United Nations is the establishment of a stable world order, based upon law and justice, supported by a system of collective law enforcement, a system which would permit the diversion to the welfare of mankind of the resources wasted in the armaments race.
2. Progress towards this objective has been seriously hindered by the absence of generally accepted procedures for the authorization and financing of peace-keeping operations. This question has been debated on many occasions in the General Assembly in recent years and also in the working group of fifteen members established by resolution 1620 (XV) of 21 April 1961, in the working group of twenty-one members established by resolution 1854 B (XVII) of 19 December 1962, in the fourth special session of the General Assembly in May-June 1963 and most recently in the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations established by resolution 2006 (XIX) and at the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.
3. In the view of the Government of Ireland it is now vitally necessary that the United Nations should agree upon measures which would ensure that future necessary peace-keeping operations will be firmly authorized and reliably financed and supported to a successful conclusion. Above all it is essential, in view of the difficulty of securing the payment of peace-keeping expenses by the permanent members of the Security Council, that the General Assembly should decide that for the future the payment of 70 per cent of such expenses should be made a group responsibility on the five permanent members of the Security Council, and that those of them who in future vote for a peace-keeping operation should be responsible and subject to the sanction of Article 19 for the payment of the 70 per cent share of such expenses due by the group as a whole. It is most urgent that clear-cut decisions on these matters be taken by the General Assembly which alone is competent to express the resolve of all the Member States.
4. The Government of Ireland therefore suggest that the General Assembly should at its twentieth session adopt a resolution along the following lines:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling that the primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to prevent and remove threats to the peace and suppress acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace,

"Reaffirming that all Member States have pledged themselves to take collective action to ensure that this primary purpose of the United Nations be achieved,

"Emphasizing the special importance of ensuring that the United Nations can, when necessary, undertake peace-keeping activities and that all future peace-keeping operations are firmly authorized and reliably financed and supported to a successful conclusion,

"Believing that the lack of a reliable system of collective security under the aegis of the United Nations would be disastrous for many States anxious for protection against foreign aggression and invasion, overt or covert,

"Convinced that the United Nations should at all times be in a position to give prompt assistance to a Member State threatened with aggression and, when a peace-keeping force is provided, to assure that the force will not be withdrawn or its effectiveness diminished through lack of funds, until its mission has been successfully accomplished,

"Recognizing the special responsibility and authority of the Security Council, in particular of the five permanent members thereof, in respect of the maintenance of international peace and security,

"Recognizing also that the responsibility imposed by the Charter of the United Nations on all other Member States for the maintenance of peace still remains and is necessarily linked with the right to exercise an appropriate degree of influence on the course of events when peace is threatened and the Security Council fails to act because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members,

"Concerned to ensure that future peace-keeping operations shall be firmly authorized and reliably financed, with due regard, on the one hand, to the special position given by the Charter to the permanent members of the Security Council and, on the other, to the responsibility it imposes on all Member States,

"1. Decides to amend the rules of procedure of the General Assembly as follows:

(a) Rule 69 to read:

'A majority of the Members of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum. When, however, a question under resolution 377A (V) is being voted upon, the presence of three-quarters of the Members, as evidenced by their participation in the vote, is required.'

(b) Rule 88 to read:

'(i) For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

'(ii) As an exception to the foregoing, in the case of matters dealt with under resolution 377A (V), the phrase "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or a negative vote and Members recording abstentions.'

(c) Rule 89 to read:

'(i) The General Assembly shall normally vote by a show of hands or by standing, but any representative may request a roll call. The roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Members, beginning with the Member whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each Member shall be called in any roll call and one of its representatives shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention". The result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Members.

'(ii) In the case of matters dealt with under resolution 377A (V), voting shall be by roll call in accordance with the provisions of (i) of this rule except that the permanent members of the Security Council shall be called upon to vote first, beginning with the permanent member whose name is drawn by lot by the President and followed immediately by the other four permanent members in the English alphabetical order of their names.'

"2. Decides:

(a) That, to the extent not otherwise covered by agreed arrangements, the net cost of future peace-keeping operations shall be apportioned as follows:

- (i) As to 5 per cent among the group of economically less developed Member States;
- (ii) As to 25 per cent among the group of economically developed Member States, other than the permanent members of the Security Council;
- (iii) As to 70 per cent among the group of permanent members of the Security Council. In the case of a peace-keeping operation being implemented under operative paragraph 1 of this resolution, the 70 per cent due by the group will be levied only on those permanent members who voted in favour of the operation;

(b) That any Member of the United Nations or other State or organization may make voluntary subscriptions to reduce the amount to be levied on any or all of the groups;

(c) That within each group the amount to be paid by each Member shall be in proportion to its capacity to contribute relative to the other Members of the group as determined by the scale of assessments for the regular budget."
