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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ali Ben-Said KHAMIS (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly heretofore made under this agenda item during the current session is reflected in part I of the Committee's report (A/34/630). Pursuant to that recommendation, the General Assembly, at its 51st plenary meeting, on 1 November 1979, adopted resolution 34/9 A.
2. The Committee considered further the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (A/34/570 and Corr.1) at its 74th meeting, on 7 December 1979. It had before it the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/689), which was introduced by the Chairman of that Committee in an oral statement.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

3. At the 74th meeting, on 7 December, the representative of Ireland:
 - (a) Introduced three draft resolutions (A/C.5/34/L.33) sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Senegal and Sweden;
 - (b) Introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.34) sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Ireland,

Italy, the Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Senegal and Sweden;

(c) Introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.35) sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Senegal and Sweden entitled "Review of the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States".

4. The comments and observations made in the course of the discussion of the draft resolutions are reflected in the summary record of the meeting (A/C.5/34/SR.74).

5. At its 74th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.33 by a recorded vote of 85 to 13, with 2 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolutions I A to C). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iraq, Mongolia, Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Democratic Yemen, Mauritania.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.34 by 85 votes to 13, with 3 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution I D).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.35 by 86 votes to 12, with 3 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

8. The representatives of the following Member States spoke in explanation of vote or position: Benin, Bulgaria, Congo, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Upper Volta.

9. Also at its 74th meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee proposed that the Committee recommend approval of the continuation of the UNIFIL Special Account as proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 12 of his report (A/34/570 and Corr.1) and as recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 15 of its report (A/34/689). The Committee adopted the Chairman's proposal without dissent (see para. 11).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 1/ as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 427 (1978) of 3 May 1978, 434 (1978) of 18 September 1978, 444 (1979) of 19 January 1979 and 450 (1979) of 14 June 1979,

Recalling its resolutions S-8/2 of 21 April 1978, 33/14 of 3 November 1978 and 34/9 A of 1 November 1979,

Reaffirming its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by such operations, a different procedure from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations is required,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards peace-keeping operations involving heavy expenditures,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council in the financing of peace-keeping operations decided in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

1/ A/34/570 and Corr.1.

2/ A/34/689.

I

Decides to appropriate to the Special Account referred to in section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution S-8/2 an amount of \$51,906,000 gross (\$51,468,000 net), being the amount authorized, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and apportioned under the provisions of section III of Assembly resolution 33/14 of 3 November 1978 for the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 19 January to 18 June 1979 inclusive;

II

1. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account referred to in section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution S-8/2 an amount of \$44,756,800 gross (\$44,371,800 net), being the amount authorized, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and apportioned under the provisions of section III of Assembly resolution 33/14 of 3 November 1978 for the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 19 June to 31 October 1979 inclusive;

2. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account referred to in section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution S-8/2 an amount of \$16,275,200 gross (\$16,135,200 net) authorized and apportioned by Assembly resolution 34/9 A of 1 November 1979 for the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 November to 18 December 1979 inclusive;

III

Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon at a rate not to exceed \$10,767,166 gross (\$10,676,666 net) per month for the period from 19 December 1979 to 18 December 1980 inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 450 (1979) of 14 June 1979, the said amount to be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in Assembly resolution 33/14; the scale of assessments for the years 1978-1979 shall be applied against a portion thereof, that is, \$4,515,263 gross (\$4,477,312 net), being the amount pertaining on a pro rata basis to the period from 19 to 31 December 1979 inclusive, and the scale of assessments for the years 1980-1982 shall be applied against the balance for the period thereafter;

IV

Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

V

1. Decides that Solomon Islands and Dominica shall be included in the group of Member States mentioned in section I, paragraph 2 (d), of General Assembly resolution S-8/2 and that their contributions for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 34/6 A of 25 October 1979;

2. Decides further that, in accordance with regulation 5.2 (c) of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, the contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon until 18 December 1979 of the Member States listed in paragraph 1 of the present section shall be treated as miscellaneous income to be set off against the apportionments authorized in section III above.

B

The General Assembly,

Aware of the special nature of the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the difficulties inherent in its financing,

Considering with concern the mounting deficit in the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon due to the withholdings of certain Member States of their contributions to the Force, and the resulting difficulties to pay the troop-contributing Governments the amounts due to them on a current basis, mainly because of the lack of funds in the Special Account,

Convinced of the need to make special provisions for the liquidation of the outstanding obligations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to Governments providing contingents and/or logistic support to the Force,

Recalling its resolution 33/13 F of 14 December 1978, in which it approved special arrangements for the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in regard to the application of article IV of the United Nations Financial Regulations,

1. Approves the following special arrangements for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in regard to the application of article IV of the United Nations Financial Regulations, whereby appropriations required in respect of obligations owed to Governments providing contingents and/or logistic support to the Force shall be retained beyond the period stipulated under financial regulations 4.3 and 4.4:

(a) At the end of the twelve-month period provided in regulation 4.3, any unliquidated obligations of the financial period in question relating to goods supplied and services rendered by Governments for which claims have been received, or which are covered by established reimbursement rates, shall be transferred to accounts payable; such accounts payable shall remain recorded in the Special Account until payment is effected;

(b) Any other unliquidated obligations of the financial period in question owed to Governments for goods supplied and services rendered, as well as other obligations owed to Governments, for which required claims have not yet been received, shall remain valid for an additional period of four years following the end of the twelve-month period provided in regulation 4.3; claims received during this four-year period shall be treated as provided under subparagraph (a) above, if appropriate; at the end of the additional four-year period any unliquidated obligations shall be cancelled and the then remaining balance of any appropriations retained therefor will be surrendered.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 and 33/14 of 3 November 1978 on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,

Concerned that a number of Member States have indicated their unwillingness to pay their assessed share of the budget of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,

Noting paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 3/ which states that more than one fourth of the total amounts apportioned among Member States to finance the costs of the Force must, in the present circumstances, be considered uncollectable,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the work of the Organization, 4/ particularly section XII thereto, which, inter alia, outlines the burden which the policy of withholding their assessed contributions by certain Member States places on the troop-contributing States, particularly those States with relatively smaller resources,

Noting that the continuation of the present situation may militate against the important principle of equitable geographical distribution in the composition of peace-keeping forces,

1. Renews its invitation to Member States to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon both in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General;

2. Decides to establish a Suspense Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to be operated according to the annex to the present resolution.

3/ A/34/570 and Corr.1.

4/ A/34/1.

ANNEX

Provisions governing the Suspense Account for the United Nations
Interim Force in Lebanon

A. Purpose

1. The Suspense Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (hereafter referred to as the Account) shall be used solely to supplement the regular Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in reimbursing Governments for the costs which they incur, under the terms of the existing United Nations practices and rates of reimbursement, in contributing troops, equipment and supplies to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

B. Guiding principles

2. The Account shall be administered in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

C. Resources

3. The resources of the Account shall consist of voluntary contributions in cash by Governments, by international organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) and by other private sources.

4. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall issue a biannual appeal to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies.

5. Cash contributions to the Account shall be made in convertible currencies or in currency readily usable by the Secretary-General for the purpose outlined above.

6. Contributions shall be made without limitation to a specific recipient country.

7. Contributions to the Account will be considered as cash advances to the Secretary-General and, when a sufficient number of assessed contributions to the regular Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have been received, will be credited or paid back to the donor States or parties.

D. Financial administration

8. The Secretary-General shall administer the Account in accordance with the existing Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations.

E. Future arrangements

9. The General Assembly shall review, in the light of experience, the effectiveness and further evolution of the arrangement, with a view to deciding upon such changes and improvements as might be necessary in order to meet fully the purpose of the Account.

D

The General Assembly,

Having regard to the financial position of the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General 5/ and referring to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 6/

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General is facing growing difficulties in meeting the obligations of the United Nations Force in Lebanon on a current basis, particularly those due to the troop contributors,

Concerned that the financial situation of the United Nations Force in Lebanon will soon be reaching a critical stage,

Decides that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b), 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations shall be suspended temporarily in respect of the amount of \$122,492 which otherwise would have to be surrendered pursuant to these provisions, this amount to be entered in a separately identified account of the United Nations and held in suspense pending a further decision by the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments
of troop-contributing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision at its twenty-ninth session which established, as from 25 October 1973, standard rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States for

5/ A/34/570 and Corr.1.

6/ A/34/689.

pay and allowances of their troops serving in the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, 7/ and its decision 32/416 of 2 December 1977, which revised these rates of reimbursement as from 25 October 1977,

Recalling also its decision at its thirtieth session which approved for principle of reimbursing the troop-contributing States for the usage factor for personal clothing, gear and equipment, 8/ and the related report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session establishing the rates therefor as from 25 October 1973, 9/

Recalling further its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978, which applied the same standard rates of reimbursement payable to those Governments contributing troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,

Recognizing that inflation and escalating troop costs have adversely affected in real terms the existing standard rates of reimbursement,

Requests the Secretary-General to study, in consultation with the States contributing troops to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the existing standard rates of reimbursement, with a view to ensuring an equitable rate of reimbursement to the Governments of the troop-contributing States and to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

* * *

11. The Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly should request the the Secretary-General to continue to maintain the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the periods of its mandates subsequent to 18 January 1979.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631).

8/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/10034).

9/ A/31/288.