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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

Rapporteur: Mrs. Flor Acconciamezza de RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-third session, and to allocate to the Fifth Committee, the item entitled:

"Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East:

"(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

"(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

2. The Fifth Committee considered sub-item (b) of agenda item 124 at its 45th meeting, on 12 December 1988. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (A/43/826 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/43/941).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/43/L.7

3. At the 45th meeting, on 12 December, the representative of Ireland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/43/L.7) sponsored by Austria, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Samoa and Sweden, subsequently joined by the Netherlands. He orally amended the resolution by replacing the fifth preambular paragraph by the following two paragraphs:

"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 such operations, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963 and other resolutions of the Assembly".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 103 to 1, with 7 abstentions (see para. 6). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining: Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Poland, Viet Nam.

5. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this sub-item are reflected in the relevant summary record (see A/C.5/43/SR.45).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

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

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 617 (1988) of 29 July 1988,

Recalling its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978, on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 42/223 of 21 December 1987,

Reaffirming its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditure 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 such operations, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963 and other resolutions of the 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, 1/ and referring to paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Recalling its resolution 34/9 E of 17 December 1979 and subsequent resolutions which suspended the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b), 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, the latest of which was resolution 42/223,

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

1/ A/43/826 and Corr.1.

2/ A/43/941.

to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon by certain Governments,

Concerned that the Secretary-General is continuing to face increasing difficulties in meeting the obligations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States, resulting from the withholding of contributions by certain Member States,

Concerned that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have, in effect, been drawn upon to the full extent to supplement the income received from contributions for meeting expenses of the Force,

Concerned also that the application of the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b), 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations would aggravate the already difficult financial situation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,

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 \$141,180,000 authorized by paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 42/223 for the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 1 February 1988 to 31 January 1989, inclusive;

2. Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, without prejudice to the positions of principle that may be taken by Member States in any consideration by the General Assembly of arrangements for the financing of peace-keeping operations, to apportion the amount of \$141,180,000 among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in Assembly resolution 33/14 of 3 November 1978 and the provisions of section V, paragraph 1, of resolution 34/9 B of 17 December 1979, section VI, paragraph 1, of resolution 35/115 A of 10 December 1980, section VI, paragraph 1, of resolution 36/138 A of 16 December 1981, section IX, paragraph 1, of resolution 37/127 A of 17 December 1982, and section VII, paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 39/71 A of 13 December 1984; the scale of assessments for the year 1988 3/ shall be applied against a portion thereof, that is, \$129,415,000 being the amount pertaining on a pro rata basis to the period from 1 February to 31 December 1988 inclusive, and the scale of assessments for the year 1989 4/ shall be applied against the balance, that is, \$11,765,000 for the period thereafter;

3/ See resolution 40/248.

4/ See resolution 43/ .

3. Decides that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided in paragraph 2 above, their respective share in the estimated income of \$20,000 other than staff assessment income approved for the period from 1 February 1988 to 31 January 1989, inclusive;

4. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 2 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalisation Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of \$1,744,000 approved for the period from 1 February 1988 to 31 January 1989, inclusive;

5. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon at a rate not to exceed \$11,903,500 gross (\$11,714,500 net) per month for the 12-month period beginning 1 February 1989, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 617 (1988), the said amount to be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and the scale of assessments for the years 1989 and 1990;

6. Decides that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (h), 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations shall be suspended in respect of the amount of \$6,313,362, which otherwise would have to be surrendered pursuant to those provisions, this amount to be entered in the account referred to in the operative part of General Assembly resolution 34/9 E and held in suspense until a further decision is taken by the Assembly;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon shall be administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. Renews its invitation to Member States and other interested parties 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 and also to make voluntary contributions in cash to the Suspense Account established in accordance with resolution 34/9 D of 17 December 1979.
