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President: Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON  
 (Thailand).

AGENDA ITEM 66

Question considered by the first emergency special session of the General Assembly from 1 to 10 November 1956 (continued)

1. Begum IKRAMULLAH (Pakistan): It is a matter of great regret that the French delegation has thought fit to reintroduce this matter of the treatment of French nationals by Egypt before the General Assembly at this late hour of its proceedings. It has resulted in nothing but a fruitless aggravation of a situation which we all want to see resolved with as little bitterness as possible. It is not possible for the Members of the United Nations to examine the charges or for Egypt to refute them satisfactorily in the time left at our disposal.

2. On the surface of it, it seems that Egypt has done nothing that any nation in a state of war is not entitled to do under the canons of international law. I do not say that it has not resulted in hardships for a number of people. That, unfortunately, does happen when there is war, and that is why war is so abhorrent.

3. But it does not behove those who started the war to complain at the result of it. The charge of the violation of fundamental human rights is a very grave charge and one that must not be made without due deliberation before this Assembly because, when made, cognizance should be taken of it by all civilized nations of the world. The Assembly is the forum for world public opinion, and only such matters should be brought forward and discussed here as have the magnitude of an international problem; it should not be used merely to score points and to cause difficulty and obstruct discussion.

4. The PRESIDENT: The list of speakers is exhausted. I now call upon the Secretary-General.

5. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: This morning [630th meeting] the representative of Jordan directed to me certain questions. To the extent that I am in a position to reply to those questions I would like to use this opportunity to do so.

6. The first question put to me concerned the withdrawal of Israel armed forces behind the armistice lines. The four resolutions of the General Assembly relating to withdrawal of forces from Egypt, as the Members of the General Assembly will remember, call for the withdrawal of Israel forces behind the armistice lines. The last of these resolutions [1120 (XI)], adopted on 24 November, called for compliance "forthwith" with the previous requests. As of today, the

extent of Israel withdrawal, and the further withdrawal in prospect, are as follows.

7. On 1 December, the representative of Israel informed the Secretary-General by letter [A/3410] that, on the morning of 3 December, Israel forces would be removed from "a wide belt of territory (about 50 kilometres) in proximity to the Suez Canal along its entire length. . .". This withdrawal has been confirmed by General Burns, and elements of the United Nations Emergency Force immediately entered this area, although progress in it has been impeded because of minefields and destroyed roads.

8. On 11 December, the representative of Israel informed the Secretary-General that Israel was now ready to effect further withdrawals of Israel troops in the Sinai peninsula, in order to enable the United Nations Emergency Force to extend its occupation eastwards, and invited a meeting between the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force and the Israel General Staff to discuss arrangements to this effect.

9. General Burns met with General Dayan, the Israel Commander, on the morning of 16 December. General Dayan informed General Burns that, according to his instructions, the Israel forces were to be withdrawn from the Sinai peninsula at the approximate rate of 25 kilometres per week during the "next few weeks". General Burns recalled to General Dayan that the Israelis were expected to withdraw behind the armistice lines as rapidly as possible. He felt sure that the rate mentioned would not be acceptable to the Secretary-General.

10. Specific arrangements presented at the same time provided for the withdrawal of Israel forces on 18 December to Misfaq on the El Qantara—El Arish road, and to Bir Gifgafa on the Ismailia—El Auja road. The Israelis stated that on the road from Suez to Elath they had already withdrawn to Sudr el-Heitan. In each such withdrawal, the United Nations Emergency Force contingents would advance to within 5 kilometres of the Israel positions. In the Suez Gulf coast region, the Israel forces were to withdraw from Sudr on the morning of 19 December, with a UNEF detachment moving promptly forward to take over the oil-well installations at that place.

11. The specific withdrawal arrangements for 18 and 19 December were accepted by General Burns.

12. Subject to further discussion, and in addition to the aforementioned withdrawals, it was assumed as a tentative arrangement that, within a week, the United Nations Emergency Force would move forward approximately another 25 kilometres on roads eastward from the Canal, and also to Wadi Feiran on the Suez Gulf coast. It was agreed that a "reconnaissance party" of UNEF would proceed immediately to El Arish to obtain information regarding the billeting and other requirements of UNEF preparatory to its entry there.

13. It was estimated by my military adviser, General Martola, and his military aides, that the pace and schedule for the Israel withdrawal reported to General Burns by General Dayan on 16 December would mean that from four to six weeks might elapse before the withdrawal would bring Israel forces behind the armistice lines, as required by the resolutions of the General Assembly. The assumption by General Burns that the pace of withdrawal proposed by General Dayan would be unacceptable to me was confirmed to a member of the Israel delegation on 17 December.

14. Specific Israel proposals for the withdrawal of its forces beyond what had been agreed upon on 19 December were presented the same day to General Burns. In substance, they provided for a further withdrawal of only some 20 kilometres along the main roads. General Burns informed General Dayan that these proposals were inadequate. On 20 December, I informed the representative of Israel that this schedule of withdrawal, which had no completion date, was inconsistent with the intention of the resolutions of the General Assembly and unsatisfactory. The representative of Israel informed his Government to this effect.

15. Today the representative of Israel has presented a new withdrawal proposal which had been received from his Government and which supersedes the proposal of 19 December. This envisages that the remaining Israel withdrawal will take place in two phases. In the first phase, no Israel forces would be "west of El Arish" after the first week in January, although Israel occupation of Sharm El Sheikh and Tirana would continue. The details of this phase of the withdrawal are to be worked out in another meeting between General Burns and General Dayan. The second phase would involve full Israel withdrawal, understood to mean behind the armistice lines, at an unstated date.

16. Despite the difficulties encountered by the United Nations Emergency Force in its advance into the Sinai peninsula, resulting from minefields and destroyed roads, some limitations in communications and transport, and the nature of the terrain, the Force is prepared to move forward at whatever pace may be required by a rapid Israel withdrawal behind the armistice lines, as envisaged by the General Assembly.

17. The second question put to me this morning concerned the withdrawal of French and British troops from Egyptian territory. The Anglo-French withdrawal from Port Said is in a very late phase, and I do not feel that it calls for any specific comments from my side.

18. The third question was regarding the destruction which took place in Port Said. So far, I have no specific information on that point.

19. Another question was to what extent there had been demolition in Sinai. On that point I wish only to refer to a letter from the Permanent Representative of Israel to me [A/3453], which was circulated last week to delegations of the General Assembly, according to which the Israel Government gave assurances that no demolition would take place in Sinai. As to the extent to which such demolition may have taken place, I am not in possession of any exact information.

20. Finally, the representative of Jordan referred [630th meeting] to "atrocities which are practised on the Arab population in the Sinai peninsula". Again, I am not in a position to make any comments. He referred also to the Gaza Strip and the policy of Israel in that area. Shortly, the reports will be circulated on the present state of affairs of Gaza as well as the developments under the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in Gaza. As regards the policy of Israel in this area, I have no specific information to give to the General Assembly.

21. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan): I come to the rostrum only to express my deep gratitude to the Secretary-General for having been so kind as to give us this report. My delegation will give it full consideration.

## AGENDA ITEM 19

Appointment of the members of the Peace  
Observation Commission

22. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Canada [A/3460], which proposes that the General Assembly reappoint for the calendar years 1957 and 1958 the present members of the Peace Observation Commission. If no representative wishes to speak on this question, and unless a vote is requested, I shall assume that the Assembly adopts this draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1114

## Decision concerning the procedure of the meeting

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee and Fifth Committee.*

23. The PRESIDENT: Interventions in connexion with the Committee reports will be limited to explanations of vote and, in accordance with established practice, I suggest that a seven-minute limitation be observed.

## AGENDA ITEM 26

## Programmes of technical assistance (continued)\*

## (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council

## REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/3467)

24. Mr. BANNIER (Netherlands), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: I have the honour to submit to the General Assembly the report of the Second Committee on item 26 (a). A first report on the same item, dealing specifically with the allocation of funds to the participating organizations for the year 1957, was presented to the General Assembly on 7 December. A third report, concerning the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee, will be submitted at a later date.

25. The report presently submitted includes four draft resolutions agreed upon by the Committee.

26. The first draft resolution deals with the problem of currency.

27. At its twenty-second session the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution [623 B III (XXII)] wherein it was emphasized that all contributions to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance should be to the fullest possible extent in a form readily utilizable for programme purposes. Governments were *inter alia* urged, when announcing their pledges to the programme, to make that part of their contributions exceeding the equivalent of \$500,000 in the form of, or convertible into, readily usable currencies. Moreover, certain rules were set to be observed by the Technical Assistance Board and by participating organizations to safeguard the multilateral character of the programme. The Council finally decided to transmit its resolution to the General Assembly for any action which it might deem necessary. The resolution was not submitted for approval.

28. The Second Committee discussed the issue of currency at some length on the basis of five draft resolutions. During the debate, two specific points stood out very clearly. First of all, strong emphasis was laid on the voluntary character of the programme. Secondly, it was

the very widespread conviction that the programme's universal and multilateral character should be observed consistently. A number of representatives stated that they were in full agreement with the provisions of the resolution as adopted by the Economic and Social Council. Others felt that the resolution might adversely affect the technical assistance programme and, in particular, the total sum of contributions. The draft resolution wherein the proposals contained in the Council resolution were endorsed, with the exception of three specific programmes, and wherein the Council was requested to re-examine the problem of currency utilization at its twenty-fourth session, was rejected by 44 votes to 10, with 14 abstentions.

29. There were three other proposals. The first was to commend the Economic and Social Council and to endorse its actions. In the second, certain amendments to the Council's resolution were submitted, stressing the voluntary basis of the programme and redrafting certain paragraphs. The third proposal was a draft resolution wherein the Assembly would endorse the resolution of the Council, subject to the amendments submitted in the second proposal.

30. These three proposals were withdrawn after the introduction, by sixteen members, of a draft resolution wherein it was recalled that the Technical Assistance Committee and the Council would have to consider the problem of currency utilization during the twenty-fourth session of the Council and wherein the record of the debates on the subject during the current session of the General Assembly were referred to the Council and to the Technical Assistance Committee. This draft resolution, after being amended, was adopted by 62 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions. As a result, the action recommended by the Second Committee on this subject is that the views expressed during the present session of the Assembly be transmitted to the bodies directly concerned with the programme of technical assistance. These bodies will, in accordance with Council resolution 623 B III (XXII), have to discuss certain aspects of the problem during the next session.

31. The second draft resolution provides for the Assembly's approval of certain amendments to its resolution 831 B (IX), authorizing changes in the regulations concerning the working capital and reserve funds of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The Second Committee unanimously recommends these amendments.

32. The third draft resolution, again unanimously adopted by the Second Committee, has been referred to under chapter III B of the report of the Council, and Governments are being invited to give their fullest support to the programme.

33. Finally, the fourth draft resolution, which was approved by 53 votes to none, with 9 abstentions, deals with the problem of technical assistance in public administration, and in particular with the need for increased activity in this field in the regular technical assistance programme of the United Nations. The Second Committee was of the opinion that the assistance of public administration is to be considered as one of the most effective means of accelerating the economic and social progress of the less developed countries. The Committee further shares the views expressed by the Secretary-General in the documents which were before the Assembly in both its tenth and eleventh sessions.

34. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): I should like

\* Resumed from 612th meeting.

to explain the reasons for our vote on the first draft resolution, on currency utilization.

35. First of all, I would point out that the Soviet Union is in favour of the action of the United Nations in the field of technical assistance, considering this action to be both important and useful. The Soviet Union, which makes a substantial contribution to the United Nations budget each year, has always considered that a part of the budgetary resources of the United Nations should be allocated to technical assistance under the so-called regular programme. My country also takes an active part in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to which it contributes substantial amounts. The Soviet Union will continue to participate in United Nations action to help the under-developed countries; it has provided those countries and will continue to provide them with every assistance in this worthy endeavour.

36. At its twenty-second session, however, the Economic and Social Council, on the initiative of the United States and certain other delegations, adopted a resolution on currency utilization which deals a blow at the principle of voluntary contributions by Member States to the programme for financing technical assistance to under-developed countries. Under this resolution, that part of a contribution made in a national currency which exceeds the equivalent of \$500,000 should be made in the form of, or convertible into, readily usable currencies, which really means in United States dollars.

37. The endorsement of this resolution of the Economic and Social Council, or even a reference to it in the General Assembly's decisions, can therefore have adverse effects on the success of United Nations activities in the field of technical assistance to under-developed countries. The direct or indirect approval of the Economic and Social Council resolution by the General Assembly would undermine the fundamental principle on which the programme is based, namely, the principle of voluntary contributions in national currencies.

38. In the opinion of the Soviet delegation, contributions to the United Nations programme of technical assistance should, at the discretion of each country, be made in national currencies, on a voluntary basis and without any limitations whatever.

39. The Soviet delegation wishes to make it quite clear that it is opposed to any limit being placed on the amount that countries can contribute to the United Nations technical assistance programme in national currencies. It opposes any limitation or discrimination with regard to the individual currencies of other States Members of the United Nations. The United Nations should not give any preferential treatment to individual currencies, including the United States dollar.

40. The Soviet Union has adequate means, considerable industrial and technical experience and duly qualified experts enabling it to provide under-developed countries with effective and beneficial technical assistance in the full amount of its contribution and in any form consistent with the principles of the United Nations. The Soviet rouble is one of the most stable and readily usable currencies in the world for purposes of providing technical assistance.

41. For these reasons the Soviet delegation voted against the draft resolution in the Second Committee because it referred to the fundamentally unsound resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council. For these same reasons, we will vote against the draft resolution in the General Assembly.

42. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on the draft resolutions presented by the Second Committee [A/3467], and I shall put to the vote first draft resolution I, concerning currency utilization.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 64 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions.* 1021

43. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to draft resolution II, which concerns the Working Capital and Reserve Fund of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. This draft resolution was unanimously recommended for adoption by the Second Committee. As a vote is not requested, I take it that the Assembly adopts this draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1022

44. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution III concerns the implementation and expansion of the programmes of technical assistance. This draft resolution was also unanimously recommended for adoption by the Second Committee. I take it that the Assembly adopts this draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1023

45. The PRESIDENT: I shall put to the vote draft resolution IV, relating to technical assistance in public administration.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 65 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.* 1024

#### AGENDA ITEM 41

##### Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

- (c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the financial year ended 30 June 1956;
- (d) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1956

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/C.5/L.416/Rev.1 and A/C.5/L.417)

#### AGENDA ITEM 43

##### Budget estimates for the financial year 1957

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/C.5/L.429 and Add.1)

#### AGENDA ITEM 44

##### Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly

- (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
- (b) Committee on Contributions;
- (d) Investments Committee: confirmation of the appointment made by the Secretary-General;
- (e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal;
- (f) United Nations Staff Pension Committee

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3472, A/3473, A/3475, A/3476, A/3477)

#### AGENDA ITEM 46

##### Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/C.5/L.430)

## AGENDA ITEM 48

**Audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies of technical assistance funds allocated from the Special Account**

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/C.5/L.418)

## AGENDA ITEM 65

**The over-all total of the United Nations annual budget expenditure**

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/C.5/L.428)

## AGENDA ITEM 66

**Question considered by the first emergency special session of the General Assembly from 1 to 10 November 1956 (continued)****Administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations Emergency Force:**

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/C.5/L.427)

46. The PRESIDENT: I should point out that owing to the pressure of time it has not been possible to issue all the reports of the Fifth Committee as Assembly documents; some of them have therefore been put to the Assembly under the symbol of the Fifth Committee.

47. Under item 41, the Committee has presented two reports. The first relates to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East [A/C.5/L.416/Rev.1]. As no member wishes to explain his vote, and as the Fifth Committee has unanimously recommended the adoption of the draft resolution contained in this report, I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Fifth Committee.

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1081

48. The PRESIDENT: The second report under this item contains a draft resolution concerning the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency [A/C.5/L.417], which I now put to the vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 61 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.* 1082

49. The PRESIDENT: We shall vote now on draft resolutions A, B and C presented by the Fifth Committee under item 43, on the budget estimates for the financial year 1957 [A/C.5/L.429/Add.1].

*Draft resolution A was adopted by 65 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.* 1084

*Draft resolution B was adopted by 65 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.* 1085

*Draft resolution C was adopted by 63 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.* 1086

50. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on the budget appropriations for the financial year 1957 [A/C.5/L.429].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 65 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.* 1085

51. The PRESIDENT: Item 44 relates to appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. As no member wishes to explain his vote on any of the draft resolutions submitted by the Fifth Committee on this item, I shall put them to the Assembly.

52. In connexion with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, may I take

it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution of the Fifth Committee [A/3472]?

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1076

53. The PRESIDENT: In connexion with the Committee on Contributions, may I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution of the Fifth Committee [A/3473]?

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1077

54. The PRESIDENT: In connexion with the Investments Committee, it is for the Assembly to confirm the appointment made by the Secretary-General of Mr. Jacques Rueff, as provided for in the draft resolution of the Fifth Committee [A/3475].

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1078

55. The PRESIDENT: In connexion with the membership of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, may I take it that the Assembly approves the draft resolution of the Fifth Committee [A/3476]?

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1079

56. The PRESIDENT: The last report under this item relates to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. May I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee [A/3477]?

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1080

57. Mr. LEQUERICA (Spain) (*translated from Spanish*): Before we vote on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses among the Members, I should like to place on record, on behalf of the Spanish delegation, the Spanish Government's view that the assessment for Spain is unsatisfactory, being based on erroneous data which do not reflect Spain's real capacity to pay.

58. Spain will vote against this draft resolution solely in order to make it possible for us to request a revision of our assessment, under rule 161 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure. We shall make this request at the appropriate time, so that, at the next meeting of the Committee on Contributions, Spain's case can be studied with a view to its assessment being reduced to more equitable proportions.

59. Having said this, the Spanish delegation wishes to thank the Assembly for reducing our contribution for the year of entry by one-ninth. Without prejudice to our claim in the matter, Spain will in due course pay the contribution fixed for it; and I have pleasure in informing the Assembly that we have already made a substantial advance to the Working Capital Fund and towards the contributions payable by Spain.

60. The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the Fifth Committee under item 46 of the agenda, on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [A/C.5/L.430].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 73 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.* 1087

61. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 48, concerning audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies of technical assistance funds allocated from the Special account. The draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee on this matter [A/C.5/L.418] was adopted unanimously. May I take it that it is adopted by the General Assembly?

*The draft resolution was adopted.* 1088

62. The PRESIDENT: No draft resolution has been recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report

under item 65, on the over-all total of the United Nations annual budget expenditure [A/C.5/L.428].

63. Under item 66, the Fifth Committee has submitted a report on administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations Emergency Force [A/C.5/L.427].

64. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): As we all know the creation of an international United Nations force under Chapter VII of the Charter is a matter exclusively within the competence of the Security Council. The General Assembly's decision to establish the United Nations Emergency Force is therefore completely contrary to that chapter of the Charter.

65. For that reason, and recalling the statement it made [596th meeting] in explanation of its vote on the resolution [1122 (XI)] adopted by the General Assembly on 26 November 1956 concerning the administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations Emergency Force, to the effect that it would not consider itself bound by any obligations resulting from that resolution, the Soviet delegation reiterates that the Soviet Union will not contribute to meet the expenses of the United Nations Emergency Force, created in violation of the Charter, and that all expendi-

ture arising out of the action taken by the United Nations to put an end to the aggression against Egypt should be borne by the aggressors.

66. By assuming financial responsibilities arising out of the aggression of the United Kingdom, France and Israel against Egypt, the United Nations will be encouraging aggressors and acting in a completely unjustified way in imposing upon its Members burdens resulting from the aggressors' deeds.

67. The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee under item 66 [A/C.5/L.427].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 62 votes to 8, with 7 abstentions.*

1069

#### *Statement by the President*

68. The PRESIDENT: Before the General Assembly recesses until 2 January 1957, I should like to extend to my fellow representatives and their delegations and to the Secretary-General and the members of the Secretariat my best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*The meeting rose at 9.55 p.m.*