



Twenty-third session
Agenda item 32

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF
PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations

Rapporteur: Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic)

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2308 (XXII) of 13 December 1967, the Special Committee on 27 June 1968, adopted a progress report to the General Assembly (A/7131). In that report, it informed the General Assembly that the Special Committee had approved as the first model in the programme of work of the Working Group a study of the United Nations military observers established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes pursuant to Security Council resolutions. It may be recalled that the Special Committee decided that this would mean studying the following:

- (a) The strength and equipment of the group of observers; their recruitment and organization; facilities and services; financial questions;
- (b) The relationship between observers and the State or States on the territory or territories of which they have to operate;
- (c) The status of observers; privileges and immunities; duration and termination of the mission of observers;

2. For the purposes of this study, the Secretary-General was requested by the Working Group to provide:

- (a) A compilation of the statements made in the Security Council and in the Special Committee on the military observers established or authorized by the Security Council, covering all aspects referred to above;

(b) A report containing all the documents and materials available in the Secretariat which refer to the military observers established or authorized by the Security Council covering all the aspects referred to above. It was understood that the documents and materials which the Secretariat would submit to the Working Group would be of a factual nature and would not put forward any conclusions or recommendations.

3. On 18 September 1968, in response to the request by the Working Group, the Secretariat made available in two volumes, for preliminary consideration, the material outlined in paragraph 2 above. The first volume of the material contains a compilation of the statements made in the Security Council and in the Special Committee on the military observers established or authorized by the Security Council covering the aspects referred to in paragraph 1 of this report. The second volume provides United Nations documentation and other factual information on several cases involving the use of United Nations military observers established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes pursuant to Security Council resolutions. The material in each case is presented under a series of headings such as establishment and authorization, functions and operating procedures, organization and deployment, strength of the mission, casualties and relations with the host Government. Also, the material provides United Nations documentation and other factual information on questions such as recruitment and conditions of service of observers, practical assistance by host Governments, status, privileges and immunities of observers, financial arrangements, operating instructions and standing operating procedures, equipment, facilities and services. The Working Group has held several meetings devoted to a preliminary consideration of the material. During these meetings, comments and suggestions were expressed, and requests were made for additional factual information on the topics outlined in paragraph 1 above. The Chairman of the Special Committee conveyed to the Secretary-General, on behalf of the Working Group, the observations formulated and requests made for additional factual information. The Secretary-General informed the Chairman that he would give careful consideration to these observations and requests and provide by February 1969 additional factual material to the fullest extent possible.

4. There were different opinions in the Working Group on the ways and forms in which the material mentioned in paragraph 3 above could be made available, for information, to the members of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations or to all Member States.
5. In addition to the above material, the Working Group has also had before it the documentation submitted by members and non-members of the Special Committee listed in paragraph 3 of its progress report (A/7131), to which should be added a document (A/AC.121/19) submitted by Austria on 24 June 1968.
6. The Working Group has informed the Special Committee that it will report regularly to the Committee on the preparation of a draft for the study of the first model in its programme of work. The Working Group, in the light of its deliberations and taking into account the material submitted by the Secretariat, as well as by Governments, hopes to outline the problems arising in connexion with the operations involving United Nations military observers, established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes pursuant to Security Council resolutions, and to formulate suggestions as to how to cope with such problems. The Special Committee, in its turn, expects to submit the results of its consideration of the Working Group's study of the model as soon as possible thereafter. The Special Committee intends to keep the General Assembly informed regularly about the progress made and to submit a comprehensive report on the United Nations military observers established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes pursuant to the Security Council resolutions as soon as possible and not later than the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly. The Working Group of the Special Committee would also expect to proceed, when it deems it appropriate, to the study of other mutually acceptable models of peace-keeping operations, including documentation of a factual nature from the Secretary-General.
