

United Nations Now Faces Decision of Being World's Policeman

By BRUCE MUNN
United Press International
United Nations, N.Y. —
The time has come when the United Nations must face to a major decision — can it go on being the world's policeman?

The General Assembly meets in special session Tuesday to discuss financing of the \$100 million debt into which the 110-nation UN has been driven by the costly peacekeeping activities in the Congo and the Middle East.

Secretary General Thant's authorization to pay for those operations expires June 30. By that time, virtually all of the \$130,188,000 raised by last year's emergency bond issue will have been used up and the organization will again be on the verge of bankruptcy. No Quarrel of Purpose

There is no quarrel with the prime stated purpose in the UN charter: "To maintain international peace and security."

The difficulty lies in how international peace and security are maintained, for the political overtones tend to become paramount as they did in the Congo, and who will pay for it.

The problem is a fundamentally human as a town

meeting discussion of new curbs for the village street. No taxpayer wants to pay more than he has to and each wants to see his own interests taken care of.

The UN is carrying on its books debts against its members of \$200,322,587.03 (according to its latest financial statement dated March 31). Of this, \$72,639,087.14 is unpaid assessments for the Congo operation. An additional \$27,388,495.97 is due for the UN emergency force (UNEF) on duty between Israel and Egypt since 1956, making a total arrearage due of \$100,027,583.11 for the two peace-keeping operations. The other \$100,295,003.92 is due against assessments for the regular budget.

Paid on Assessment
Only 32 of the 110 UN members are paid up on their Congo assessments and only 46 on their contributions for UNEF.

Russia and the Communist bloc are the chief offenders. The Soviet defense for non-payment is that only the Security Council, in which Moscow is one of the five veto powers, can appropriate money for peace-keeping operations and, anyway, the "aggressor" nations should be hit with the full bill for such UN activities.

What it amounts to, especially in the case of the Congo, is that the operation did not work out to the Russians' interest — or the interest of several other non-paying countries — and it seemed bad business to them to have to pay for such activities.

Russia, France, Belgium and a number of other countries refusing to pay held that they were liable only for their assessments under the regular budget and that such costs as those for the Congo could not be made their legal responsibility.

Into Regular Budget
But the assembly last year voted to put the costs of peace-keeping operations into the regular budget. Then it applied to the World Court, which handed down an advisory opinion that such costs are, indeed, a rightful part of the regular budget and a legal obligation of all members.

There will be much talk in the months to come about Article 19 of the UN Charter. It provides that any member behind in its payments "shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of contributions due from it for the preceding two years."

At least 10 countries stand in danger of losing their votes under Article 19 at the upcoming special session. Hitherto, there has been no challenge case. Delinquent countries — Bolivia was the classic case of the past — absented themselves at voting time until they could catch up on their arrearages.

The United States was reported ready to enforce the rule against several countries, notably Hungary and Cuba, even at the risk of penalizing some Western Hemisphere nations such as Bolivia and Haiti.

Some UN legal authorities hold that no discussion or ballot is required to take away a delinquent's vote. They argue that the action is automatic. However, the charter provides that the assembly may permit a delinquent country to vote "if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is beyond the control of the member." In such instance, a vote would be required.

Little hope is held that the special session — expected to last three weeks to a month — will decide on a permanent plan for financing future peacekeeping operations. The United States and most of the Western powers will be satisfied with meeting the costs for the next six months and leaving the future for next fall's regular assembly session to wrestle with.

A 21-power working committee met privately throughout the early part of this year and finally reported that it was unable to agree on any financing plan.

The United States, which has paid close to 50 per cent of the Congo costs to date, jolted the committee with a blunt announcement that it henceforth would pay only its assessed share of 32.02 per cent — and not a penny more — unless there was a decided movement among the chronic non-payers to shoulder their share.

Appears To Be Retreating

Now, however, the United States appeared to be retreating from this "ungiving" position.

It appeared to be influenced by historical arguments of the Latin Americans dating back to the 1945 San Francisco conference.

Eighteen years ago, when the late Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg fought for a 25 per cent ceiling on the contribution by any member to UN costs, the Latin Americans said they were

assured that peace-keeping expenses would be borne by the big five Security Council members and they would never be assessed for such activities.

Vandenberg lost his fight. A 40 per cent ceiling was set at the time. And nothing appeared in writing to guarantee the smaller powers against peacekeeping assessments.

Ability to Pay

Another argument is that UN financial philosophy is based on assessment according to ability to pay. On the basis of per capita income, it is argued, the United States, instead of paying the 32.02 per cent it now is assessed, should rightfully pay closer to 45 per cent of all UN costs.

The United States was veering toward a version of a proposal put before the committee of 21 known as the British "three-bite plan."

Under the British plan, an initial sum of perhaps

\$10 million for each peace-keeping operation would be levied against all members on the regular scale of assessments — which ranges from the U.S. top of 32.02 per cent to .04 per cent for the least wealthy members.

The balance also would be fully assessed, but with lower rates on the less developed countries. These countries now are given an 80 per cent reduction on their assessments, and the general thought was that such a reduction in the fu-

ture would be limited to 50 per cent of the going rate.

Countries now enjoying the rate reduction are liable, at full assessment rates, for about 18 per cent of the total. Halving the financial bite on them would leave about 9 per cent of the cost of keeping peace unaccounted for.

The remaining 9 per cent would be sought from voluntary contributions — meaning from the United States, Britain and perhaps

one or two other countries. The "three-bite plan" would mean that the United States would have to re-ent in its threat to pay no more than 32.02 per cent. In 1962 the United States paid \$205,144,067 to the UN and related agencies.

With many varying viewpoints developing, most diplomats expected nothing but a stopgap financial measure, carrying the Congo and UNEF operation to the end of the year, to emerge from the special assembly session.

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**Medford Man Wins
State Essay Contest**

Stearns Cushing, labor market analyst for the Medford office of the Oregon state employment service, was named first place winner in the annual state essay contest conducted by International Association of Personnel Employment Security.

The announcement was made at the annual institute in Eugene recently.

The subject of the statewide contest was, "How Employment Security Benefits the Community."

Second place went to Robert Harvie, Roseburg, and third place to Jim Dyer, Klamath Falls.

The three top essays were entered in the international essay contest. The winner will be announced at the IAPES 50th anniversary convention in Chicago in July.

Cushing is the labor market analyst for the southern Oregon area.

Stanley Bonkowski, formerly of Medford, and now manager of the Lakeview employment office was elected director for the southern Oregon district at the recent meeting. He succeeds Don Stiffler, Grants Pass.

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