

SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET ON EXTENSION OF UNFICYP

The Security Council was expected to meet next week on extending the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The current mandate of the United Nations force on the island expires on 15 June.

SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS MANDATE OF UNDOF ANOTHER SIX MONTHS

Last Friday, 28 May, the Council approved a six-month extension of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights. At the same time, the Council called on the parties concerned to carry out past resolutions setting out principles for a Middle East settlement and providing for negotiations for a just and durable peace.

At the outset of the meeting, Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim gave details of the trip he had just made to Damascus in connexion with the UNDOF extension, recalled his efforts to reactivate the Middle East negotiating process and said he would continue them. He warned that the Middle East situation as a whole remained tense and unstable and would become increasingly dangerous in the absence of progress toward peace.

The vote on the resolution extending the Observer Force was 13 in favour to none against, with China and Libya not participating. China reiterated its standing opposition to the dispatch of United Nations forces. Libya said its position on the United Nations force was clear and that the earlier resolutions referred to were irrelevant.

The resolution was introduced by Rashleigh E. Jackson (Guyana), on behalf of his own delegation along with those of Benin, Pakistan, Panama, Romania and the United Republic of Tanzania. He said that the United Nations force had not been intended to freeze a situation which had resulted from Israeli aggression and hoped that the extension of its mandate would be used to further peace.

Most Council members stressed the need for renewed peace efforts and paid tribute to the Secretary-General's initiative in this connexion!

PLO REPRESENTATIVE REPLIES TO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INITIATIVE

The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Zehdi L. Terzi, met with the Secretary-General on Saturday, 29 May, and handed him the PLO's reply to Mr. Waldheim's initiative in the matter of negotiations. A United Nations spokesman said that now that all the replies had been received, the Secretary-General would analyze them and continue his efforts accordingly.

PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT TO SECURITY COUNCIL

A report by the Committee on Palestinian Rights was submitted to the Security Council this week. It called for a two-phase programme for the return of displaced Palestinians to their homes, and recommended that the Council set a deadline of 1 June, 1977 for the complete withdrawal by Israel from the areas occupied in 1967. (See Weekly Summary of 20 May 1976 for more details of report.)

At a meeting with newsmen on Wednesday, 2 June, the Chairman of the Committee, Medoune Fall (Senegal), was asked whether the Committee's recommendations meant that the State of Israel would continue to exist.

Mr. Fall replied that Israel's existence was an undeniable reality and that no one could seriously speak of its destruction, but that Israel "is denying another reality which exists -- the Palestinians".

ANTI-APARTHEID SEMINAR CONCLUDES SESSION IN HAVANA

A five-day seminar against apartheid and in support of the liberation struggle in South Africa ended in Havana, Cuba, with the adoption of a Declaration and a Programme of Action.

In its final Declaration, the seminar called the supply of arms to South Africa or any form of military co-operation with the apartheid regime a hostile act not only against the people of South Africa, but also against the international community. And it said that transnational companies and other interests aiding Pretoria were "accomplices in the crime of apartheid".

The seminar said that the "front-line" countries which had taken a firm stand against the white minority regimes should be given all necessary economic and other aid, commended African, non-aligned, socialist and other countries for assisting the liberation movements, and invited support from all countries and organizations "in this crucial and final stage of the struggle for the total emancipation of Africa".

In its Programme of Action, the seminar recommended that the arms embargo first voted by the Security Council against South Africa in 1963 be expanded, made mandatory, and effectively supervised. It called for a vigorous campaign against pro-South African lobbies in all Western countries, and for assistance to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in its struggle for the independence of Namibia.