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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: Mr. Etien NINOV (Bulgaria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-fourth 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;

"(c) Review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States."

2. The Fifth Committee considered sub-item (b) of agenda item 133 at its 58th meeting, on 18 December 1989. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (A/44/818) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/44/867).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/44/L.12

3. At the 58th meeting, on 18 December, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/44/L.12), sponsored by Austria, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Samoa and Sweden.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 6).
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.5/44/SR.58).

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 resolutions 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 639 (1989) of 31 July 1989,

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 43/229 of 21 December 1988,

Reaffirming its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures 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,

1/ A/44/818.

2/ A/44/867.

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 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Recalling its resolution 34/9 E of 17 December 1979 and the subsequent resolutions in which it decided that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b), 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations should be suspended, the latest of which was resolution 43/229,

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 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 also 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 further 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,

Mindful of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee 3/ on the requests of some Member States to change their placement in the existing groups "b", "c" and "d" of Member States, on the basis of the criteria set out in General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973,

3/ See A/C.5/44/SR.43 and 45-49.

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 142,842,000 United States dollars gross (140,574,000 dollars net) authorized by the Assembly and apportioned in paragraph 5 of its resolution 43/229 for the operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 1 February 1989 to 31 January 1990, inclusive;

2. 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 12,001,000 dollars gross (11,806,000 dollars net) per month for the twelve-month period beginning 1 February 1990, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 639 (1989);

3. Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amounts referred to in paragraph 2 above among Member States, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, to be adjusted by the decision to be taken by the Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the composition of the four groups "a", "b", "c" and "d" of Member States and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1990 and 1991; 4/

4. Decides also that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b), 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 3,078,849 dollars, 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;

5. 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;

6. 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.

4/ See resolution 43/223 A.