

ARTICLE 47

TEXT OF ARTICLE 47

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments and possible disarmament.

2. The Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any Member of the United Nations not permanently represented on the Committee shall be invited by the Committee to be associated with it when the efficient discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires the participation of that Member in its work.

3. The Military Staff Committee shall be responsible under the Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. Questions relating to the command of such forces shall be worked out subsequently.

4. The Military Staff Committee, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, may establish regional subcommittees.

NOTE

1. On 12 September 1983, in accordance with the decision taken in the course of consultations held on 17 August 1983, the President of the Security Council issued a note¹ in connection with the consideration of the 1982 report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.² In the note, the members of the Council welcomed the ideas and observations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, which had contributed to "wide-ranging exchanges of views" structured under five main aspects, including: "(d) measures for giving effect to Article 43 of the Charter, including the role of the Military Staff Committee in Articles 43 to 47".³ In the course of the discussion, inter alia, the Council members had "heard suggestions on the possibility of activating the work of the Military Staff Committee in fulfilling the tasks assigned to it under the Charter".⁴

2. No other decisions requiring treatment under Article 47 were taken by the organs of the United Nations during the period under review.

3. Explicit and implicit references to Article 47, often with Articles 11, 26, 43, 45 and 46 of the Charter, were made in the Main Committees⁵ of the General Assembly and in a few reports⁶ submitted to the Assembly. As in previous years, some of those references were made in connection with calls for the reactivation of the work of the Military Staff Committee, or touched upon the relationship between disarmament and international security.

¹ S/15971.

² G A (38), Suppl. No. 1.

³ S/15971, paras. 1 and 2(d).

⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 17. On 28 September 1984, in accordance with the decision taken in the course of consultations held on the same date, the President of the Security Council issued another note (S/16760) on the subject, which stated, inter alia, that Council members, having retained the five main aspects agreed to in 1983, had initiated a new round of discussions on the basis of the points contained in the previous note, to which the present note was an addition. However, in the second note, there was no reference to Article 47.

⁵ See, in connection with the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, G A (34), 6th Comm., 31st mtg.: Bangladesh, para. 22; *ibid.*, 34th mtg.: Nigeria, para. 49; *ibid.*, 36th mtg.: Cyprus, para. 16. See, in connection with the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, G A (34), 1st Comm., 51st mtg.: Cyprus, pp. 59-60; G A (36), 1st Comm., 46th mtg.: Cyprus, pp. 26, 32 and 36; G A (37), 1st Comm., 46th mtg.: Cyprus, pp. 8-9; *ibid.*, 56th mtg.: Ghana, pp. 14-15. See, in connection with the implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter, G A (37), 1st Comm., 54th mtg.: Jamaica, p. 6.

⁶ See the following reports of the Special Committee on the Charter: G A (34), Suppl. No. 33, para. 18 (sub-paras. 7, 11 and 76 (sect. III.A.)); G A (35), Suppl. No. 33, para. 43; G A (37), Suppl. No. 33, para. 33.

4. In accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly,⁷ the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization examined various proposals on the question of the maintenance of international peace and security, including a proposal⁸ to increase the membership of the Military Staff Committee to include all members of the Security Council. No agreement was reached in the Special Committee on those proposals.

⁷ G A resolutions 33/94, para. 3(b); 34/147, para. 3(a); 35/164, para. 3(a); 36/122, para. 4(a); 37/114, para. 5(a); and 38/141, para. 3(a). G A resolution 39/88 A, para. 3(a), contained similar provisions and, in accordance with that resolution, the Special Committee on the Charter continued its work on the question in 1985.

⁸ See G A (34), Suppl. No. 33, para. 18 (subpara. 76 (sect. III.B)); G A (35), Suppl. No. 33, para. 152 (sect. V); G A (36), Suppl. No. 33, paras. 243-245; G A (37), Suppl. No. 33, paras. 71-74.