ARTICLE 24

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 24

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.

2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.

3. The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The primary character of the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security conferred upon the Security Council by Article 24 is reflected in the terms of Article 11 which provide for the referral by the General Assembly to the Security Council of questions on which action is necessary, and in provisions of Article 12 which limit the authority of the General Assembly in respect of any dispute
or situation while the Security Council is exercising the functions assigned to it by the Charter. The latter limitation is also stipulated in Articles 10, 11 and 14.

2. As indicated in the previous volume of the Repertory, the examination of the practice of the United Nations organs in respect of an Article of such broad scope as Article 24 has been necessarily confined to matters which have in practice arisen in the proceedings of the Security Council only. The practice of the General Assembly in connexion with the maintenance of international peace and security, though in some respects apposite, has been dealt with under the Articles 1/ on the functions and powers of the General Assembly. Whereas Article 24 has delineated the general responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, other Articles of the Charter, as indicated in Article 24 (2), have conferred upon the Council specific functions and powers for the discharge of that responsibility. The analysis of the decisions of the Council in the Repertory under Article 24 was, therefore, confined to those decisions bearing upon the main questions which had arisen in the proceedings of the Council in connexion with the general responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, as distinct from its specific powers defined in other Articles. Since no discussion on this general responsibility of the Security Council took place in the proceedings of the Council during the period under review, no material has been included in the present volume under the Analytical Summary of Practice.

3. Because a detailed presentation of all decisions of the Security Council bearing upon Article 24 would have been repetitious of material included in other sections of the Supplement covering Articles of Chapters VI, VII and VIII, the alternative method, employed in the Repertory under Article 24, has been followed by appending two annexes. A description of these annexes is presented in the General Survey.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Articles 24 (1) and (2)

4. Annex I contains a list of questions which the Security Council has considered under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The questions, arranged in the chronological order of their inclusion in the agenda of the Security Council, are listed under the headings included in the annual Reports of the Council to the General Assembly. The range of questions covers those which may be deemed to fall under Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter. Annex II consists of a tabulation of various measures adopted by the Security Council in connexion with these questions. As indicated in the Repertory, the headings in the tabulation have been devised for convenience of presentation, and no constitutional significance is to be attached to the inclusion of any particular decision under any given heading.

B. Article 24 (3)

5. Article 24 (3) places upon the Security Council the obligation to submit annual, and when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly, to give an account of how the Council has discharged the responsibility conferred upon it by Members for the maintenance of international peace and security. During the period under review the Security Council submitted its tenth and eleventh annual reports to the General Assembly. No special reports were submitted.

1/ See in this Supplement, under Articles 10, 11, 12 and 14.
6. As indicated in the Repertory, the annual reports are prepared in the following stages:

(a) Formulation of the first draft by the Secretariat;
(b) Circulation of this draft as a confidential document among the members of the Council;
(c) Discussion of proposals for changes and submission of observations at a closed meeting of the Council;
(d) Full approval at a closed meeting of the Council, following which the annual report is published as a General Assembly document and submitted for the consideration of the Assembly.

7. Consideration of the annual report of the Security Council by the General Assembly has continued to be a formality. The General Assembly has not debated the substance of the annual report submitted by the Council, but has adopted resolutions taking note of the report.

**II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE**

**ANNEX I**

Chronological list of questions considered by the Security Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security 2/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Submitted by b/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter from the representative of the United States (S/3287)</td>
<td>United States, 8 September 1954</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Palestine Question

(a) Complaint by Israel against Egypt concerning restrictions imposed by Egypt on the passage through the Suez Canal of ships trading with Israel (S/3300) | Israel, 4 October 1954 |
(b) Egyptian and Israel complaints concerning incidents in the Gaza area (S/3367, S/3368) | Egypt (2 March 1955), Israel (3 March 1955) |
(c) Further complaint by Israel (S/3365) | Israel, 4 April 1955 |

Question of hostilities in the area of certain islands off the coast of the mainland of China

(a) Letter from the representative of New Zealand (S/3354) | New Zealand, 28 January 1955 |
(b) Letter from the representative of the USSR (S/3355) | USSR, 30 January 1955 |

a/ See para. 4 above.
b/ The date of submission is that of the original communication submitting the question to the Secretary-General.
Table of various measures provided for in positive decisions adopted by the Security Council in connexion with questions which it has considered under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security:

**ANNEX II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures Provided</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Submitted by</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Preliminary measures for the elucidation of fact</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>II. Determination of the nature of the question</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Determination of the existence of a dispute or situation the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security</td>
<td>Palestine question: Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), paragraph 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B. Determination of the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Determination of a violation of cease-fire provisions of a Security Council resolution</td>
<td>Palestine question: Decision of 29 March 1955 (S/3378), preamble, second and third paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>III. Injunctions to Governments and authorities involved in hostilities</strong></td>
<td>Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3538), preamble, third and fourth paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Precautionary action</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B. Cessation of hostilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C. Arrangement, maintenance or prolongation of truce</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D. Establishment of an armistice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Effective measures to prevent violations of cease-fire provisions of a Security Council resolution</td>
<td>Palestine question: Decision of 29 March 1955 (S/3378), paragraphs 5 and 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[c/ \text{See para. 4 above.}\]
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Annexes

Decision of 30 March 1955 (S/3379)
Decision of 19 April 1955 (presidential statement, 69th meeting)
Decision of 8 September 1955 (S/3432), paragraph 2
Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3558), paragraphs 5 and 6
Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), paragraph 4
Decision of 4 June 1956 (S/3605), paragraphs 2 and 6

IV. Measures in connexion with injunctions to be taken by the Governments and authorities directly involved in hostilities

** A. Withdrawal of fighting personnel

** B. Demilitarization of an area

** C. Delineation of demarcation lines

** D. Restriction on the introduction of new fighting personnel into the area of hostilities

** E. Restriction on the importation of furnishing of war materials

** F. Restriction on the mobilization of men of military age

** G. Release of political prisoners

** H. Protection of Holy Places

** I. Protection of life and property

J. Freedom of movement and safe conduct of supervision personnel

Palestine question:
Decision of 8 September 1955 (S/3432), paragraph 4
Decision of 4 June 1956 (S/3605), paragraph 3

** K. Prevention and punishment of breaches of the truce

** L. Termination of the exercise of the right to visit, search and seizure

** M. Suspension of work in demilitarized zone during examination of question by Security Council

N. Obligation to co-operate with subsidiary organ

Palestine question:
Decision of 11 November 1954 (presidential statement, 685th meeting)
Decision of 30 March 1955 (S/5579), paragraph 3
Decision of 8 September 1955 (S/3435), paragraph 5
Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3558), paragraphs 5, 6 and 9

O. Release of military prisoners

Palestine question: Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3558), paragraph 8

P. Co-operation with the Secretary-General in the implementation of a resolution

Palestine question: Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), paragraph 4
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**V. Measures in connexion with injunctions to be taken by other Governments and authorities**

**VI. Measures for settlement**

VII. Measures to promote the implementation of resolutions of the Security Council

**A. Notice of possible action under Chapter VII of the Charter**

**B. Establishment or employment of subsidiary organs**

**C. Intercession by the President**

D. Endorsement of decisions of subsidiary organs

Palestine question:
- Decision of 30 March 1955 (S/3379), paragraph 1
- Decision of 8 September 1955 (S/3432), paragraph 3

**E. Time-limits fixed for compliance**

F. Reaffirmation of previous decisions

Palestine question:
- Decision of 13 January 1955 (presidential statement, 688th meeting)
- Decision of 29 March 1955 (S/3378), paragraphs 2 and 3
- Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3358), preamble, first paragraph
- Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), preamble, first and second paragraphs
- Decision of 4 June 1956 (S/3605), preamble, first paragraph

G. Requesting the Secretary-General to undertake a survey of enforcement of and compliance with the armistice agreements

Palestine question: Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), paragraph 2

H. Endorsement of views of the Secretary-General

Palestine question: Decision of 4 June 1956 (S/3605), paragraph 4

I. Request to Secretary-General to consider measures to reduce existing tensions

Palestine question: Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), paragraph 3

J. Expression of censure of acts in violation of resolution and of armistice agreement

Palestine question:
- Decision of 29 March 1955 (S/3378), fourth paragraph
- Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3358), paragraph 3

K. Expression of concern at failure to comply with obligations

Palestine question:
- Decision of 19 January 1956, (S/3358), fourth paragraph
- Decision of 4 April 1956, (S/3575), third paragraph
VIII. Measures to ensure further consideration and to ascertain compliance

A. Request for information on the progress of settlement

1. From the parties

Palestine question: Decision of 11 November 1954 (presidential statement, 685th meeting)

2. From the Secretary-General

Palestine question: Decision of 4 April 1956 (S/3575), paragraph 5

3. From subsidiary organs

Palestine question:
Decision of 30 March 1955 (S/3379), paragraph 6
Decision of 8 September 1955 (S/3432), paragraph 6
Decision of 19 January 1956 (S/3538), paragraph 7
Decision of 4 June 1956 (S/3605), paragraph 5

** B. Retention of the question by express decision on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized

** C. Provision by express decision to consider the matter further

D. Request to Secretary-General to continue his good offices with the parties

Palestine question: Decision of 4 June 1956 (S/3605), paragraph 7