

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 sub-committees.

NOTE

1. In the period covered by this *Supplement*, there were two instances in which an explicit reference was made to Article 47 in draft resolutions submitted during the consideration of the item "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" in the Special Political Committee.

2. In the first instance, at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, the Special Political Committee adopted a draft resolution¹ by which the General Assembly would recommend to the Security Council, *inter alia*, to explore the prospects for agreements to be negotiated with Member States for the provision of armed forces, assistance and facilities pursuant to Article 43 and "taking into account Article 47, paragraph 2, of the Charter". The General Assembly, however, decided² not to vote on this draft resolution, after having adopted a resolution³ referring the report of the Special Political Committee to the fifth special session of the General Assembly. At that session the General Assembly adopted⁴ a resolution⁵ by which it requested the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to continue its work and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session.

3. In the second instance, at the twenty-second session, the Special Political Committee had before it a draft reso-

lution by which the General Assembly, after citing Article 47 of the Charter,⁶ would recommend to the Security Council, *inter alia*,

"(a) That the Military Staff Committee prepare a study on matters related to facilities, services and personnel which Member States might provide to the Security Council in accordance with the Charter for the United Nations peace-keeping operations;

"(b) That the Military Staff Committee extend invitations to an agreed number of Member States to assist in the above-mentioned study."⁷

As a result of the acceptance of amendments by the sponsors of the draft resolution, however, the specific reference to Article 47 was deleted and the above operative paragraph was replaced by a paragraph using language similar to that of Article 43.⁸

4. In the course of the discussion⁹ in connexion with the above-mentioned and other draft resolutions on this item, references were made to Article 47 as well as to the Military Staff Committee in support of the view that the Secu-

¹ G A (XXI), Annexes, a.i. 33, A/6603, para. 25, draft resolution B, para. 5(c).

² G A (XXI), Plen., 1499th mtg., para. 94.

³ G A resolution 2220 (XXI) of 19 December 1966.

⁴ G A (S-V), Plen., 1521st mtg., para. 123.

⁵ G A resolution 2249 (S-V) of 23 May 1967.

⁶ G A (XXII), Annexes, a.i. 37, A/6959, para. 5 (with reference to A/SPC/L.150, 5th preamb. para.).

⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 5 (with reference to A/SPC/L.150, para. 2).

⁸ For treatment of the amended draft resolution, see this *Supplement*, under Article 43, paras. 9 and 10.

⁹ For the texts of the statements referred to in paras. 4 and 5, see: G A (XXI), Spec. Pol. Com., 519th mtg.: Nigeria, para. 23; 521st mtg.: Canada, para. 18; 522nd mtg.: USSR, paras. 21 and 28; 524th mtg.: Hungary, para. 40; Poland, para. 27; 526th mtg.: Byelorussian SSR, para.

rity Council, assisted by the Military Staff Committee, was the organ competent to establish and direct armed forces for United Nations operations. It was suggested in this connexion by a number of representatives that a larger number of States, both members and non-members of the Security Council, should be invited to participate in the Military Staff Committee.

5. On the other hand, certain representatives expressed the view that the General Assembly and the Secretary-General possessed competence in the area of peace-keeping operations and that reference of matters in this area to the Military Staff Committee might impede their functions or undermine their authority. Yet other representatives argued, however, that, although the concern of the

Military Staff Committee, as envisaged in Article 47, appeared to be with enforcement action, there was no provision in the Charter which would limit the role of the Military Staff Committee exclusively to such operations, and that the Committee might provide valuable technical assistance to the General Assembly or the Secretary-General in undertaking future peace-keeping operations.

6. In the course of this discussion, references were made also to Articles 44, 45 and 46, or to these Articles collectively,¹⁰ together with Article 47.

7. Incidental references to Article 47 were made in the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session during its consideration of the item "The strengthening of international security".¹¹

28; Czechoslovakia, para. 47; Malta, para. 21; Ukrainian SSR, para. 1; 543rd mtg.: Cyprus, para. 59; G A (XXI), Plen., 1497th mtg.: Hungary, para. 247; 1499th mtg.: Mexico, para. 119; G A (S-V), Plen., 1520th mtg.: USSR, paras. 98 and 105; 1521st mtg.: Bulgaria, para. 107; Pakistan, para. 53; Ukrainian SSR, paras. 12 and 16; G A (XXII), Spec. Pol. Com., 570th mtg.: Mexico, paras. 55 and 76; United Arab Republic, para. 19; United States, paras. 87, 88; 571st mtg.: United Kingdom, para. 7; 572nd mtg.: Liberia, para. 30; Norway, para. 8; United States, para. 96; 573rd mtg.: France, para. 51; 574th mtg.: USSR, para. 24; 575th mtg.: Czechoslovakia, para. 18; 576th mtg.: Chile, para. 58; Nigeria, para. 18; 577th mtg.: Jordan, para. 17; Syria, para. 47; 578th mtg.:

Italy, paras. 71 and 72; Pakistan, para. 30; 579th mtg.: Poland, para. 26; 580th mtg.: Afghanistan, para. 38; Argentina, para. 56; 581st mtg.: Netherlands, para. 9; G A (XXIII), Spec. Pol. Com., 637th mtg.: France, paras. 11-21; 638th mtg.: Canada, paras. 11-18; G A (XXIV), Spec. Pol. Com., 688th mtg.: France, paras. 20 and 21; Poland, paras. 7-9.

¹⁰ G A (XXI), Spec. Pol. Com., 519th mtg.: Nigeria, para. 23; 526th mtg.: Malta, para. 21; G A (S-V), Plen., 1521st mtg.: Bulgaria, para. 107; G A (XXII), Spec. Pol. Com., 573rd mtg.: France, para. 51.

¹¹ G A (XXIV), 1st Com., 1653rd mtg.: Poland, para. 62; 1656th mtg.: Ukrainian SSR, para. 23; 1660th mtg.: Czechoslovakia, para. 52; Indonesia, para. 119.