

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. During the period under review no decisions requiring treatment under this Article were taken by the organs of the United Nations. The Military Staff Committee continued to hold regular meetings without addressing itself to the discharge of its mandate under the Article.

2. There were, however, a number of explicit references, mostly incidental in nature, to Article 47 of the Charter. The Article was mentioned occasionally together with other Articles of the Charter in the Committees of the General Assembly¹ and in a few reports and documents² submitted to the Assembly. Some of these references occurred in connexion with calls for the reactivation of the Military Staff Committee and for the further strengthening of the United Nations peace-keeping operations without giving rise to constitutional arguments regarding the interpretation of Article 47.

¹Explicit references to Article 47 were made in connexion with the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects: G A (25), Spec. Pol. Com., 719th mtg.: Poland, para. 20; G A (27), Spec. Pol. Com., 846th mtg.: France, paras. 3, 7; G A (29), Spec. Pol. Com., 934th mtg.: Czechoslovakia, para. 33; Sierra Leone, para. 25. In connexion with disarmament issues: G A (25), 1st Com., 1759th mtg.: Indonesia, para. 13; 1762nd mtg.: Sudan, para. 38; G A (S-10), Plen., 17th mtg.: Sudan, para. 81. In connexion with the need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations: G A (29), 6th Com., 1517th mtg.: Kenya, para. 16; 1520th mtg.: Mexico, para. 18.

²The following reports and documents contained explicit references to Article 47: G A (27), Annexes, a.i. 41, A/8669, p. 2 (document submitted by the USSR: Basic guiding principles for the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations including United Nations observer missions); *ibid.*, A/SPC/152, annex, para. 9 (Canadian memorandum on command and control of peace-keeping operations); G A (29), Annexes, a.i. 39, A/9827, annex (Report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, with the eighth report of the Working Group including, as an appendix, draft formulas for the drafting of peace-keeping operations guidelines); G A (31), Annexes, a.i. 54, A/31/337, annex (same as above); and also G A (30), Annexes, a.i. 29, A/10255, pp. 10 and 11 (Strengthening of the role of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, the development of co-operation among all nations and the promotion of the rules of international law in relations between States: report of the Secretary-General: reply received from the Philippines).