The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations – 2006 Season

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Background

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, commonly known as the C34 within UN-New York City circles, has a short substantive session of three weeks each year in the late winter. This substantive session is supported by planning sessions, information exchanges and reports that are discussed and distributed throughout the complete General Assembly annual cycle from September – August. Last year’s article on the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations: From 1965 to 2005 outlined the history of the C34 up to 2005 with an emphasis on the outcome of the 2005 C34 session.¹

Strengthening international peace and security responses to international crises, using the United Nations mechanism, demands that the UN Security Council, the UN Secretariat and Member States communicate, cooperate, coordinate and compromise constantly to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of UN peacekeeping operations. The UN Security Council addresses international peace and security issues by raising resolutions, with specific peacekeeping operations mandates within these resolutions, to bring peace and security to the international community. In parallel with the establishment of security and stability in a mission area, political and economic development processes must be applied to put in place a long-term solution to the crisis. The Secretary General provides reports to the UN Security Council with specific details on the crisis and options for the UN Security

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Council to consider on how to deal with the crisis. These reports are developed by a multidiscipline team from the UN Secretariat, UN agencies and other international structures such as the World Bank and IMF. Lastly, individual Member States provide the UN peacekeepers be they civilians, military and/or police, to execute the UN Security Council mandate under the supervision of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. If Member States do not support the mandate, either due to its lack of clarity or the DPKO concept of operation for the mission, then they will not provide resources.

The C34 allows the complete range of peacekeeping issues facing the UN Security Council, Secretariat and Member States to be discussed using in an open and transparent forum so that consensus can be achieved on the best way to enhance the international community’s effort.

This article will provide insights into the complete C34 “season” for the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly. Actions by the C34 Bureau, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Member States will be examined to give the reader a “flavor” of a typical C34 season. The keys results of the 2006 C34 session will then be outlined and analyzed.

**The Bureau**

The Bureau of the C34 is responsible for managing all aspects of the C34. The Bureau has representatives from each region of the world. The Chair of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was H.E. Mr. Aminu Wali (Ambassador and PR Nigeria). The Chair of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was H.E. Mr. Gilbert Laurin (Ambassador and Deputy PR Canada), Ms. Beata Peksa Krawiec (Minister Counsellor Poland), Mr. Alberto Pedro D’Alotto (Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy PR Argentina), Mr. Koji Haneda (Minister, Japan) and the rapporteur Mr. Alas Issa (Counsellor, Egypt).\(^2\)

With the departure of Glyn Berry, the Chair of the C34 Working Group for the previous three years there was a need for the Bureau and the C34 membership to break-in a new working group chair. Ambassador Laurin, started his Chairmanship of the C34 Working Group duties early in the 2006 season since UN peacekeeping issues were new to him. His previous four years experience with the Canadian permanent mission had focused on humanitarian and developmental issues. An initial working luncheon with the Bureau was held in September 2005. Ambassador Laurin introduced himself to the Bureau and outlined his approach to the 2006 C34 season. He stressed the need to leverage the strong relationship between the C34 and DPKO

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\(^2\) A/60/19, Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group at the 2006 substantive session (New York 27 February-17 March 2006), Chapter 1, paragraph 3.