

# **Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter**

## **The powers of the UN Security Council**

Though sometimes confusing, the rules that form the UN Charter determines the powers of the UN Security Council. Two chapters are especially relevant if one is to understand the meaning of the Security Council's power and the resolutions it passes.

### **Resolutions under Chapter VI:**

Resolutions the Security Council adopts under Chapter VI are intended to be followed and implemented via negotiated settlements between concerned parties. One of the UN resolutions adopted under Chapter VI of the UN Charter is Resolution 242, adopted in 1967 after the Six-Day War. It calls on Israel and its Arab neighbors to accept the resolution through negotiation, arbitration and conciliation. Under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, the recommendations of UN Resolution 242 cannot *be imposed* on the parties concerned, as Arab leaders often argue. In fact, the title of Chapter VI also offers a clue to its nature, for it deals with "Pacific Resolution of Disputes."

### **Resolutions under Chapter VII:**

In contrast, resolutions adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII invest the Security Council with power to issue stringent resolutions that *require* nations to comply with the terms set forth in the resolution. This leaves no room to negotiate a settlement with the affected parties. Thus, Chapter VII deals with "Threats to Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression."

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the Security Council adopted resolutions under Chapter VII that only required the aggressor, Iraq, to comply.