Soviets Can Pay U.N. 'Any Way,' U.S. Says

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 13 (AP)—Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson said today the United States will be staisfied with payments by the Soviet Union "in any form" as a means of resolving the dispute over peacekeeping assessments.

He said the payments could be made without prejudice to the legal position of the Soviet Union "or anyone else."

Stevenson made the statement to reporters after a 35-minute private talk with Secretary-General U Thant dealing with the forthcoming session of the General Assembly and the dispute over peacekeeping assessments. He expressed willingness of the United States to settle the dispute in any way satisfactory to Thant.

There has been no word that Thant is advancing any solution of his own,

The dispute involves application of Article 19 of the U.N. Charter, which says any member two years in arrears on dues shall lose it Assembly vote.

The Soviet Union is more than two years in arrears because of refusal to pay for the Congo and Middle East peacekeeping operations. Eight other countries are in the same position.

The Soviet Union and France, which will be two years in arrears on Congo assessments on Jan. 1, argue that the assessments are illegal because they were approved by the General Assembly instead of the Security Council, and Article 19 does not apply.

Stevenson expressed hope that the conflict would be resolved by Dec. 1.

"We don't want to aggravate relations with the Soviet Union or France or anyone else," he remarked. "We think that what the world needs is better relations, less tension, when so many serious problems affecting peace still confront us."

Stevenson did not go into detail on the setting up of a voluntary fund into which payments could be made, but U.S. sources said "we have been sort of pushing the idea."

This would enable the Soviet Union, France and others in arrears to make payments that could be accepted by the United Nations and used for whittling down the debt caused by the peacekeeping operations.