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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 7^a: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 74: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/46/169 und Add.1, A/46/185, A/46/254, A/46/591 and A/SPC/46/L.9)

1. Mr. WATSON (United States of America) said that peace-keeping had long been one of the success stories of the United Nations. Recently, thanks among other things to the new atmosphere of global cooperation, the opportunities for the Security Council to make use of peace-keeping in pursuit of the goals of the United Nations had expanded enormously. The United Nations had responded meaningfully and creatively to both those opportunities and to the needs they created. There had consequently been a substantial expansion in the demands placed on the United Nations and ultimately on its Member States.

2. The changes that had led to that expansion of activity had also led to a revitalization of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. Its recommendations, as embodied in General Assembly resolution 45/75 and in its current report, reflected an entirely appropriate approach. The Special Committee had focused primarily on areas within its particular competence, thus avoiding the kind of duplication which created confusion and wasted human and fiscal resources. While noting the importance of preventive diplomacy, for example, the Special Committee had avoided duplicating the work of other committees in that area. It had, moreover, focused on what the membership as a whole could do to support the expanding number and scope of operations. Ways of encouraging, channelling and maximizing the support of Member States were, in his delegation's view, the Special Committee's primary vocation.

3. The Special Committee's report also reflected the continuing outstanding support provided by the Secretariat in its reports, studies and guidelines. The Secretariat had been particularly helpful in making itself available to the Committee to exchange information and ideas. His delegation was confident that the Committee would remain aware of the need to avoid burdening the Secretariat in such a way as to distract it from its primary task of managing the growing and more complex operations in the field.

4. Peace-keeping was not without its toll, and the United Nations owed a debt of gratitude to those who had given their lives in the service of its cause. None of the achievements of the past 46 years would have been possible without the dedication of the brave men and women who had placed themselves in danger in the cause of peace.

5. His delegation was pleased that the Special Committee had played a role in the revitalization of the United Nations. It hoped that the Committee would continue to focus on its particular areas of expertise and thus maximize the ability of all Members of the United Nations to strengthen the institution of peace-keeping.

6. Mr. MIRDHA (India) observed that all peace-keeping operations, now so numerous and multi-faceted, must be based on the consensus and consent of the parties concerned, a clear mandate from the Security Council, and a respect for the Charter and for State sovereignty.
7. It had been argued that the dramatic expansion of United Nations peace-keeping in recent years warranted a redefinition of the concept, but India felt that any substantive modifications would be premature.
8. The Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had reflected the urgency and topicality of the Organization's peace-keeping efforts in its detailed discussions on the status of forces agreements, standard operating procedures, training procedures, identification of focal points in the United Nations system, and the use of civilians in peace-keeping activities. The Secretariat as well had done praiseworthy work in assembling information on country peace-keeping expertise and capabilities, which would facilitate a quick response in crises. India favoured broadening the geographic composition of peace-keeping forces, since the widespread participation of contributing countries should reflect the broad-based consensus on which the operations rested.
9. The Special Committee should give further attention to the distribution of responsibilities among the Secretariat bodies involved, in order to streamline peace-keeping operations. The possible role of organs such as the Military Staff Committee, a strategic body established under the Charter, had, for instance, been overlooked. Also, it was not clear if the many posts authorized under the support account for peace-keeping operations were fully staffed or even if the posts were sufficient to meet the requirements of the new peace-keeping operations.
10. The financing of such operations should be considered in greater detail and should be put on a standardized rather than ad hoc basis. Costs might be reduced if there were more consultation with Governments in the planning stages of the operations. Also, in order to lessen the financial burden on developing countries, the Special Committee should look into the possibility of calling upon them as far as possible for contributions in equipment and supplies.
11. From the outset, India had been a faithful contributor of both military personnel and civilian experts to many peace-keeping operations in different parts of the world, and was proud of its reputation in that regard.
12. Colonel OSBORN (Australia) said that there had been a fundamental change in attitude within the international community to the peace-keeping function of the United Nations, as reflected in the growing number of present and planned missions. The function of peace-keeping was now being stretched further and more frequently than ever before and that situation needed to be closely monitored, a task for which the Special Committee and the Special Political Committee had a particular responsibility in providing leadership and stimulus.

(Colonel Osborn, Australia)

13. In that connection, the report of the Special Committee (A/46/254) offered only limited ground for encouragement. New and useful proposals had received general support, progress had been made in resolving long-standing issues and the list of recommendations was a worthwhile contribution, but more was needed and a number of crucial issues had not been conclusively dealt with. Specifically, the Secretary-General still lacked adequate resources to carry out his responsibilities fully, particularly regarding the provision of a well coordinated and responsive planning and management staff. His delegation looked forward to the report of the team appointed by the Secretary-General to review the planning and management of peace-keeping operations. A further problem was posed by the convoluted financial processes which were currently hampering the timely launch of one of the Organization's most demanding operations, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Unless agreement was reached on provision of adequate funds promptly for the start-up phase of operations, the process of peace-keeping and the success of operations would be jeopardized. Concrete and practical remedies had been proposed by his delegation and others, but caution had always triumphed over vision.

14. His delegation welcomed the fact that the draft resolution recognized the importance of the Secretary-General's peacemaking role, since it was likely that the new climate of international cooperation would lead to an expansion in activities under that heading. However, as the Secretary-General had pointed out in his annual report, there were a number of problems inhibiting such an expansion, including the need for a better means of acquiring information on incipient conflict and for parties to conflicts to adopt a more positive approach to peacemaking. Additional resources and new approaches were required if the challenges were to be successfully met.

15. It was appropriate for peacemaking to be dealt with in a resolution on peace-keeping, since a more active United Nations role in peacemaking would help resolve disputes at an earlier stage and thus reduce the need for peace-keeping operations. The current international circumstances offered an unprecedented opportunity to effect changes in peace-keeping, and that opportunity must not be wasted.

16. Mr. SIDOROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the current session of the General Assembly had revealed an increased interest by Member States in enhancing the role of the United Nations as a unique instrument for maintaining a comprehensive peace and in using United Nations machinery effectively for settling regional conflicts and building a stable world order. That attitude was associated with the emergence of a new post-confrontational era whose hallmark was recognition of the absolute value of the ideals of democracy and individual freedom, and the need for global cooperation to solve the world's chief problems. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the United Nations was now casting off the trammels of ideological confrontation and becoming a reliable instrument of international security. The United Nations was well placed to curb aggressors and to

(Mr. Sidorov, USSR)

restore justice either without resorting to military force or by using the force commensurate with the circumstances on a collective basis. In that context the role of the United Nations in halting and reversing Iraq's aggression against Kuwait was to be commended.

17. Experience with United Nations peace-keeping operations indicated that the active engagement of United Nations armed forces and observers not only helped localize volatile situations and persuade the parties to begin a political dialogue, but also contributed to specific tasks such as bringing about national reconciliation, organizing free elections, forming a representative government, providing humanitarian assistance and establishing international safeguards for the implementation of bilateral agreements and Security Council resolutions. His delegation welcomed the new trends in peace-keeping operations, including the increase in the number of participating States, the more extensive use of civilian and police components and the interaction among the five permanent members of the Security Council.

18. Developments in various regions showed that a world which was experiencing radical transformations was not immune to the risk of destabilization. There was therefore an urgent need to strengthen the preventive potential of the United Nations and to concentrate its efforts, particularly those of the Security Council, on identifying and preventing incipient conflicts. His delegation had submitted specific proposals intended to ensure better use of the preventive potential of the United Nations at the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly as well as in a joint Soviet-United States statement (A/45/598). Interesting ideas and proposals in that area had been put forward during the most recent session of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and in the Secretary-General's current report on the work of the Organization.

19. The paramount responsibility for preventive action lay with the Security Council, whose powers to take such action should be reinforced. Many opportunities in that area remained unexplored, for example, the idea that the Security Council should dispatch observer missions to potentially dangerous regions after consulting with the relevant regional organizations and individual nations. In addition to the Security Council, practical use should be made of the preventive capabilities of the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General. In practical terms, efforts should be directed towards identifying effective means within the United Nations of deterring potential aggressors and towards the careful development of legally defined procedures for joint response to acts of aggression and threats to international peace. Such machinery could embrace consecutive stages of data collection and processing, the preparation of a report assessing the possibility that a conflict might arise and taking preventive and, if necessary, enforcement measures in the Security Council. An expert study should be prepared on the specific components of such machinery, including the use of the Charter's provisions on making contingents of armed forces available to the Security

(Mr. Sidorov, USSR)

Council and on the role of the Military Staff Committee and the establishment by it of regional subcommittees (article 47).

20. As peace-keeping operations became more comprehensive, there was a need for thorough study of the problem of institutionalizing the entire peace-keeping machinery. The Special Committee had already moved in that direction, and the Soviet Union had submitted a document containing its own preliminary ideas on that score. In its view, the joint effort might result in a declaration or other instrument summarizing the positive experience and the new trends in United Nations peace-keeping operations and including universally acceptable approaches to carrying out such operations with the consent of interested nations in cases of ethnic conflict on their territory.

21. In order to make peace-keeping operations more effective, a number of practical issues would have to be resolved. The Special Committee had been discussing those issues for years, and it was time for practical implementation of its numerous recommendations. The Soviet Union would support an extension of the range of suppliers, matériel and services for peace-keeping operations. Samples of the engineering, logistic and other equipment it could supply had been demonstrated to a representative of the United Nations Secretariat in May 1990. It would also be prepared to consider making certain types of military aircraft available on commercial terms for airborne monitoring in support of United Nations missions.

22. The effectiveness of United Nations operations would be largely determined by the level of training of their personnel. The standard guidelines for military personnel training drawn up by the Secretariat were useful in that respect and could be applied in national and regional training programmes. Other proposals of practical interest included setting up international and regional training centres, the bilateral exchange of experience, exchanges of trainees and holding training workshops.

23. His delegation saw a need for a comprehensive study of the problems involved in extending peace-keeping operations beyond the traditional functions of such operations, for example, facilitating the conduct of free elections, contributing directly to the advancement of democracy and eliminating internal instabilities caused by ethnic tensions which posed a threat to regional and international security. The time had come to begin working out basic parameters to define the participation of United Nations observers in national elections. Moreover, his delegation believed that United Nations assistance in the conduct of free elections by nations seeking such assistance should gradually evolve into a major independent area of the Organization's activity not necessarily associated with peace-keeping operations.

24. Providing a sound financial basis for peace-keeping operations was another important issue. As the number of such operations was increasing dramatically, ways should be sought to limit their financial requirements by

(Mr. Sidorov, USSR)

defining optimal time-frames for their conduct, determining reasonable numbers of military and civilian personnel to be involved and intensifying efforts to achieve early political settlement of the conflicts in question. Considerable additional sources of financing could be found for peace-keeping operations, in particular by drawing on funds and capabilities of national organizations, making wider use of donations from non-governmental organizations and the business community and encouraging host countries to provide conditions permitting a reduction of the cost of operations. The financial burden on States resulting from peace-keeping operations could be further reduced by drawing a clear distinction between the actual cost of such operations and the parallel spending required to provide technical, humanitarian and other assistance, which should be financed by voluntary contributions or through the active and well-coordinated involvement of United Nations specialized agencies and departments responsible for such assistance.

25. Mr. BAEV (Bulgaria) said that peace-keeping operations were without a doubt one of the most effective instruments available to the Organization as, standing at the centre of a new world order, it pursued its primary peacemaking and peace-preserving mission.

26. Bulgaria welcomed the new productive direction taken by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. In paragraph 79 of its report (A/46/254), it had put forward a series of useful, specific recommendations which, his delegation was pleased to note, figured prominently in draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.9. The implementation of those recommendations would enhance the efficiency of peace-keeping operations at a time when their expansion posed organizational and financial problems. The United Nations should draw more fully on its ample and varied experience in the field, and the Special Committee should accordingly consider drafting a declaration on United Nations peace-keeping operations that would touch on basic organizational and practical aspects and recommend ways of conducting such operations more efficiently. It was creative flexibility of the United Nations, combined with its strict adherence to the principles of the Charter, that had contributed so much to its remarkable achievements in peace-keeping in recent years.

27. The preventive potential of peace-keeping operations should be explored more fully, and the establishment of an early-warning system within the existing United Nations structures would enhance the Organization's ability to monitor potential crises and take prompt preventive action. The availability of objective and accurate information was a precondition for successful peace-keeping activities, and Bulgaria therefore welcomed the draft Declaration on Fact-Finding Missions scheduled for adoption by the General Assembly. The proposals set out by the Nordic countries in document A/46/591 also contained useful ideas for enhancing the peace-keeping and peacemaking capabilities of the United Nations.

28. Peace-keeping was a dynamic, evolving concept, and the United Nations now had experience of operations that went beyond the traditional framework of

(Mr. Baev, Bulgaria)

peace-keeping to include spheres such as the monitoring and organizing of elections, the monitoring of the observance of agreements and of the observance of human rights. That was a welcome trend, but the extent of United Nations involvement in such activities needed further discussion. His delegation supported the Austrian proposal regarding the requirements that a country should meet in order to have an election organized or monitored by the United Nations.

29. The extension of the scope of peace-keeping operations had been paralleled by their diversification as a result of the inclusion of civilian personnel. The Secretariat should consider issuing a second questionnaire on the capability of States to contribute to civilian contingents where needed, and the data should be compiled in a special registry at the disposal of the Secretary-General.

30. There should also be a broader involvement of Member States in peace-keeping operations; the principle of rotation was a means to that end that would be in keeping with the new spirit of cooperation in international relations and with the requisite higher standards of efficiency. As one of the countries that until recently had never been given the opportunity to participate in peace-keeping operations despite its expressed readiness to do so, Bulgaria had responded willingly to the Secretary-General's questionnaire about its contributory capabilities. It saw its participation in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) as a direct fulfilment of its duties under the Charter; and it stood ready to participate also in forthcoming operations, notably the one in Cambodia, which promised to be the most challenging and diversified ever undertaken.

31. As a first-time participant, Bulgaria was naturally interested in the issue of personnel training. Its MINURSO contingent had attended special intensive training courses, using expertise made available by other States, and Bulgaria was currently setting up a peace-keeping personnel training centre. The training guidelines issued by the Secretariat in 1991 had been particularly useful, and his delegation looked forward to other such comprehensive documents on the training of civilian specialized units, as recommended in paragraph 79 of the Special Committee's report. Also very useful in that respect were the various international seminars, and the Secretariat should become more actively involved in coordinating and organizing such events. Bulgaria supported the possible establishment of an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme and welcomed Canada's intention to make available a special paper on its experience in training.

32. Mr. ACET (Turkey) said that increasing experience in the field of peace-keeping operations should make it possible to eliminate the shortcomings of present operations and maximize the effectiveness of future ones. However, peace-keeping operations should be a temporary solution paving the way for lasting settlements, and the ultimate aim should be to devise a means of preventing conflicts from occurring, a question which the Committee should explore thoroughly.

(Mr. Acet, Turkey)

33. His delegation had always stressed the importance of securing the consent of the parties to a conflict when undertaking peace-keeping operations or renewing their mandates. It also felt that long-term operations in particular should be subject to periodic review, making it possible to streamline them where appropriate so as to minimize costs. Similarly, peace-keeping mandates should be reviewed and, where necessary, modified to ensure they corresponded to the prevailing situation.

34. With regard to finance, all Member States must meet their obligations, particularly as new large-scale operations were being undertaken at a time when the Organization was facing serious financial difficulties.

35. The increase in the number of troop-contributing countries was an encouraging sign of universal support for peace-keeping operations, and these countries with past experience in the field should play a leading role during the inception of new operations. His own country had expressed its readiness to contribute further to present and future peace-keeping operations.

36. Turning to the report of the Special Committee, he said that both long-standing issues and new ideas needed to be looked at closely. The participation of civilians in peace-keeping operations was important in enhancing their effectiveness, although care should be taken when using civilians in operations of a military nature. Training of civilian and military personnel was very important, and the willingness of States with experience and facilities in that field to cooperate with others was welcome. A possible United Nations role in providing such training in future should be further studied and, in that context, he welcomed the training guidelines issued by the Secretariat.

37. Mr. CHENG Jingye (China) said that the expansion and progress of peace-keeping operations had become a symbol of the active role of the United Nations in international affairs, enhancing its prestige and bearing witness to its effectiveness. He paid tribute to all the military and civilian personnel involved and to the valuable work of the Secretary-General.

38. He hoped that the forthcoming peace-keeping mission to Cambodia would abide strictly by the mandate laid down in the relevant Security Council resolutions and would assist the Cambodian people in realizing the objectives stated in the peace agreement on Cambodia recently signed in Paris, by restoring that country's independence, neutrality and non-alignment at an early date.

39. The role of peace-keeping operations in preventing conflicts was increasingly recognized, and his delegation favoured the use of preventive diplomacy with the consent of the countries concerned, in line with the provisions of Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter and as stressed by the Secretary-General in his recent annual report. A number of proposals for strengthening preventive diplomacy had been put forward in the past, and further in-depth discussion of the matter was needed.

(Mr. Cheng Jingye, China)

40. His delegation wished to reiterate some of the important guiding principles for peace-keeping operations, which should conform to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, be agreed upon by the parties to the conflict, fully respect the sovereignty and independence of the host country, refrain from interfering in internal affairs and strictly observe neutrality and fairness. His delegation shared the view of some other delegations that elections were part of the internal affairs of a Member State and that United Nations monitoring should only be undertaken with the consent of the country concerned and in the context of a peace-keeping operation. A sound financial basis was vital to the success of peace-keeping operations, and all Member States should pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Efforts should also be made to enhance efficiency and promote economy in the planning and management of operations.

41. His country attached considerable importance to peace-keeping operations, as witnessed by its sending of military observers and election supervisors to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO), the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) and MINURSO on different occasions, as well as by his Government's co-sponsorship with the International Peace Academy of an international symposium on peace-keeping operations in Beijing in April 1991.

42. Mr. ZVONKO (Belarus) said that the past year had confirmed the positive direction events were taking in the world and the impossibility of a return to the days of bloc enmity. During the Gulf crisis the world community had achieved a high degree of unity regarding the inadmissibility of aggression and the United Nations had begun to function with an effectiveness that matched its potential.

43. The peace-keeping operations of the United Nations were a striking demonstration of the changes in the international community's approach to conflict resolution and the peacemaking role of the United Nations. Those operations had gradually taken on new dimensions, including fostering national reconciliation, disarming conflicting factions, ensuring the withdrawal of foreign troops from a country's territory, solving refugee problems and, as in the case of Namibia, assuming a whole range of practical functions.

44. His delegation welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. The Special Committee's report in particular raised a number of interesting questions, including that of the financing of peace-keeping operations. In conditions of scarce resources it was important to rationalize their use.

45. A number of interesting ideas had been put forward for expanding the functions of future peace-keeping operations, for example, by providing assistance in the case of natural disasters or helping combat narcotics trafficking and organized crime. However, his delegation felt that the evolution of peace-keeping operations should not outstrip the evolution of the

(Mr. Zvonko, Belarus)

United Nations itself. At the current stage, it would be useful to assess the experience acquired with peace-keeping operations and to define the principles and criteria which should govern them. The proposals made in the annex to the Special Committee's report (A/46/254) would constitute a useful basis for further work in that direction. Other ideas which merited study and support were the inclusion of the Military Staff Committee in peace-keeping operations, the use of naval forces and the internationalization of peace-keeping forces and the use of such internationalized forces within a regional framework, as had been suggested in the case of Europe. From that point of view, the establishment of a register of national contingents and material and technical resources available for peace-keeping service would constitute a useful contribution. His country was prepared to participate in such non-military activities of United Nations peace-keeping forces.

46. In his delegation's opinion, the use of military and non-military contingents and police forces and involvement in environmental activities would be central to the discussion of future peace-keeping operations. It was therefore important to give attention to the question of the training of civilian personnel, making use for that purpose of the experience acquired in the training of military contingents.

47. Mr. SAVUA (Fiji) observed that while current East/West relations had removed the likelihood of super-Power confrontation, the rise of nationalistic, ethnic or religious conflicts between and within States had made United Nations peace-keeping operations crucial. It was to the Organization's credit that it had been able to launch such operations with little forewarning and to respond flexibly to the demands of different situations.

48. The mounting of UNIKOM, the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) and MINURSO and the revamping of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) in the past 12 months exemplified the broadening of the United Nations peace-keeping role. Other operations like the United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH) and the United Nations Guard Contingent in Iraq (UNGCI), while not falling within the generally accepted definition of peace-keeping operations, indicated possible areas of future deployment. His delegation fully supported the sending of electoral missions provided they were requested by Governments with wide popular support. The humanitarian assistance rendered by the Guard Contingent illustrated the useful role civilians could perform, over and above their traditional role, as in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

49. Past successes warranted optimism that the planned Cambodian operation would achieve all its objectives. In other areas like Lebanon, success had to be measured in smaller increments, but even there the Government was moving positively to regain sovereignty over all its territory, and its neighbours should cooperate by withdrawing their armed contingents from the country, so

(Mr. Savua, Fiji)

that eventually the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) could be phased out. It was always easy to see the raison d'être of the large peace-keeping missions while the smaller but equally important ones, like the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP), the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the UNTSO observer teams in Palestine, went unheralded.

50. Fiji strongly supported implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. They would have a real bearing on the way Fiji, as a troop contributor, prepared possible future participation in operations. Its training of troops would become geared more specifically to the likely areas of deployment, and its Mission at Headquarters would find it easier to deal with a single interlocutor in the Secretariat who would ensure coordination between the different units and with the contributing States. A time-frame must be set, however, for the implementation of the recommendations if the good intentions were to amount to something. The response at all levels must be made more systematic and precise, otherwise the Organization would continue to be lumbered with the current ad hoc nature of its activities. Also, in order for past, current and future troop-contributing countries to have faith in the ability of the United Nations to meet its financial obligations, money must be made available for peace-keeping operations by all States in full and on time.

51. Ms. BROWNE (Ireland) associated her delegation with the statement made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the States members of the European Community. With four new operations already launched, 1991 had been another landmark year in the peace-keeping activities of the United Nations. Her delegation shared the concern that the Organization should be properly prepared and equipped to address the new challenges and opportunities which it now faced. By the same token, Member States must vest in the Secretary-General the authority that would enable him to carry out successfully the peace-keeping tasks entrusted to him.

52. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had made a useful, if modest, contribution to improving the preparedness of both the Secretariat and the Member States: its discussion of issues had been informative and the increased participation of the Secretariat in its work had proven to be very constructive.

53. Three elements were essential to the success of any peace-keeping operation. First, although the pressure for cost-efficiency and savings had increased due to the growing number of operations, each operation must have adequate resources, particularly during the initial phases. Secondly, all parties to a dispute should cooperate to facilitate the role of the United Nations and should, in particular, ensure the safety and security of its peace-keepers. Thirdly, the United Nations should conduct an ongoing assessment of all operations to ensure that each received its due allocation

(Ms. Browne, Ireland)

of resources. Good organization and adequate staffing levels in the Secretariat were therefore essential, in which context her delegation looked forward to the results of the recent study of the Secretariat structure.

54. Stressing the arrears still owed to her Government and other troop contributors, she urged the delinquent States to fulfil their obligations without delay, since their failure to do so had placed an unfair additional burden on the troop-contributing countries. With respect to UNFICYP, she expressed hope that the Security Council would reach the long overdue decision to move its financing onto an assessed basis in line with the recommendation of the Secretary-General.

55. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) said that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations was the most appropriate forum for fresh ideas and approaches, and he welcomed the new organization of its work whereby attention was focused on the in-depth consideration of a limited number of topics and fruitful dialogue with the relevant Secretariat officials was possible.

56. His own country had now paid its arrears to the special budget and had joined the large group of troop-contributing countries. Romanian personnel were undergoing special training with a view to participating in future peace-keeping operations. He welcomed the training guidelines issued by the Secretariat as well as the Special Committee's recommendations on the establishment of regional training centres and on access to the specialized programmes run by the more experienced Member States. New peace-keeping contributors also attached great importance to informal meetings, which provided an opportunity to share experience, and to maintain contacts with the relevant Secretariat units. He welcomed the proposal to identify focal points within the Secretariat where information on peace-keeping operations and training could be obtained.

57. With regard to finance, the increasing number and complexity of operations placed greater responsibility on the Member States, which all had both a moral duty and a legal obligation to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. The current situation was alarming and concrete measures rather than good intentions were needed to guarantee the sound financial basis of activities. In the case of UNFICYP, he understood the concern of a number of delegations concerning the reimbursement of expenses and hoped that the Security Council would take the decisions needed to put the operation on a sound financial footing.

58. With regard to the growing emphasis on preventive diplomacy, he felt that much remained to be done in the field of collecting information on potential incipient conflicts, but that the possibilities offered by the Charter should be fully exploited before creating new instruments to monitor insecure areas of the world. The aim of preventive diplomacy should be to make it clear to potential aggressors that the international community was closely watching developments which might threaten the security of States and was ready to respond decisively.

59. Mr. SUPHAMONGKON (Thailand) said that his delegation had been a strong and early advocate of a United Nations role in preventive diplomacy, which could spare the international community the expensive burden of future war. Given that such diplomacy was dependent upon the timely availability of accurate information, Thailand had also long advocated the creation of an early warning system at the United Nations, in which connection he expressed support for the work currently being undertaken in that respect by the Office for Research and the Collection of Information. Preventive diplomacy included the United Nations role in both peacemaking and peace-keeping, which had now become an integral part of its activities, much success having been achieved in recent years alone. His delegation had no doubt that peacemaking would contribute to international peace and security.

60. Peace-keeping operations, deployed to monitor cease-fires or to facilitate the implementation of peace agreements, had Thailand's firm support, as demonstrated by its participation in UNTAG and UNIKOM. His delegation also welcomed the recent signing of the Cambodia peace agreement in Paris, marking the successful conclusion of a comprehensive political settlement which owed much to the efforts of the permanent members of the Security Council, the member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the other concerned parties. UNTAC, once launched, would represent new ground in the field of peace-keeping and would undoubtedly provide new lessons for future reference. Given its proximity to Cambodia, Thailand could extend assistance to UNTAC if required, and would be pleased to cooperate with the United Nations in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

61. With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, the Secretariat should designate a focal point for training activities given that much depended on the prior training of personnel. His delegation believed it worthwhile to establish regional and national training centres, and additionally supported Singapore's proposal regarding the creation of a fellowship programme. It further advocated the use of high technology in peace-keeping operations where it was cost-effective and efficiency-enhancing to do so. Noting the benefits to be gained from informal consultations, he stressed the need to maintain effective communication between Member States and the Secretariat, which should ensure that the former were fully updated on a regular basis. Finally, his delegation urged a greater investment in peace-keeping, for which both assessed and voluntary contributions were necessary to ensure that sufficient funds were available as soon as a peace-keeping operation was authorized.

62. Mr. FXARCHOS (Greece) said that his Government had recently increased its support of United Nations peace-keeping activities by contributing both military and civilian personnel to UNTAG, UNIKOM and MINURSO, and was prepared to make similar contributions to future operations where necessary. Given the collective responsibility to maintain international peace and security, all members of the international community should make their own contributions. His delegation was convinced that the Organization stood to gain from the discussions and proposals concerning the improvement and possible enlargement

(Mr. Exarchos, Greece)

of current peace-keeping operations, and particularly welcomed the ideas on the subject contained in document A/46/1. It also believed that further exploration of the role of peace-keeping operations in preventive diplomacy would be appropriate.

63. As the cost of such operations was the shared responsibility of the international community, the necessary finance should be raised from assessed contributions, for which voluntary contributions, whilst very welcome, were no substitute. UNFICYP was the only current peace-keeping operation financed through voluntary contributions, an anomalous and anachronistic situation which required correction: receipts had fallen far short of the amounts required, leading to an accumulated deficit in the UNFICYP account in excess of \$US 180 million. The burden was being shouldered by the few troop-contributing countries which, on average, were only reimbursed to the tune of less than one third of their costs. Having consistently supported the calls to finance UNFICYP by assessed contributions, his Government welcomed the Security Council's decision to consider alternative arrangements which would place it in on a more secure financial footing. In common with the other troop-contributing countries of UNFICYP, it also fully supported the ensuing recommendation made by the Secretary-General in document S/23144, which it appealed to the members of the Council to adopt. Finally, he wished to record his Government's pledge to maintain its total contribution to UNFICYP at the present voluntary amount of \$US 800,000 annually, even if its assessed contribution under a new system should happen to be lower.

64. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that his country had always supported United Nations peace-keeping operations, as witnessed by its participation in the Congo-Kinshasa operation in the early 1960s and, more recently, in the operations in Namibia and Western Sahara.

65. The sweeping changes currently affecting the world could in the short and medium term give rise to regional tensions, and the emphasis now understood being placed on preventive diplomacy was thus readily understandable. It must be borne in mind, however, that the Charter already offered extensive scope for diplomatic and legal initiatives for forestalling and, where necessary, resolving disputes between States. Strengthening the political role of the United Nations, allowing its decision-making bodies to examine problems in depth before they degenerated into armed conflict and settling legitimate claims within the framework of international law were all ways of preventing conflicts from arising. Peace-keeping operations were intended to be provisional measures to deal with genuine threats to international peace and security, and to interpret that concept too broadly could place the United Nations in a difficult situation with regard to the principle of State sovereignty.

66. The funding of peace-keeping operations was a collective responsibility, and all Member States should be called on to pay their contributions rapidly. Those countries in a position to do so should make additional voluntary

(Mr. Hachani, Tunisia)

contributions, and the idea of setting up a special fund for that purpose was worthy of consideration. Given that resources were limited it was vital that they be effectively managed and, with that in view, the decentralization of purchases in close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations was preferable to the idea of creating a stockpile of equipment for peace-keeping operations.

67. His delegation was keen to exchange ideas on training, and welcomed the readiness displayed by some States to give other States the benefit of their long experience in the field. Finally, he commended the work of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and fully endorsed the proposal to open the meetings of the Committee and its working groups to observers from other States.

68. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) said that owing to the welcome expansion in United Nations peace-keeping operations as a result of the marked improvement in the international political climate, the United Nations found itself, for the first time in its history, in a situation where it could actively pursue its primary objective - the maintenance of world peace and security. As a country which, through UNMOGIP, had directly benefited from United Nations peace-keeping activities, Pakistan appreciated their vital role.

69. His delegation favoured the argument for crisis prevention, and fully shared the Secretary-General's views regarding preventive diplomacy in his report on the work of the Organization (A/46/1).

70. Pakistan felt that States should not use the issue of consent as a pretext to circumvent the collective will of the international community. The concept of consent had to be balanced against the obligations that Member States had assumed under the Charter, particularly Articles 2 (7), 24 and 25. As a matter of principle, the Security Council could not be required in every instance to obtain prior consent to the establishment of a peace-keeping operation. That was especially true in cases where the area in question was under dispute or under foreign occupation, and the consent involved would be that of the occupying Power. Furthermore, the mandate, character or duration of a peace-keeping operation should never be altered without the express approval of the Security Council.

71. A sound financial basis was a prerequisite for the success of any operation, and Pakistan shared the concern that a number of Member States had not paid their assessed contributions on time and in full.

72. Peace-keeping operations needed to be seen in their proper perspective. They were not ends in themselves but rather a means of maintaining peace while efforts were being made to settle a dispute by negotiation. A peace-keeping operation should, however, remain in place while negotiations were in progress, because the very presence of United Nations troops acted as a barrier to an immediate resort to force and created a better environment.