



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AI-KAWARI (Qatar)

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AGENDA ITEM 77: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING  
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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued)

1. Mr. ABOUL-GHEIT (Egypt) said that Egypt lent its full support to peace-keeping operations undertaken by the United Nations and other international operations agreed upon by the parties concerned. Egypt had been subjected to events requiring it to host international peace-keeping troops more than once. Thus, it recognized the crucial role played by the Security Council with regard to the establishment of those forces and the definition of their mandates.
2. It was important to strike a precise balance between the authority and responsibilities of the Secretary-General and Security Council, on one hand, and those of the General Assembly, on the other hand, particularly in cases where the Security Council was unable to agree upon the establishment of an international force to address a situation threatening international peace and security. That issue should constitute one of the basic elements in the study that might be undertaken by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations upon the resumption of its activities early next year.
3. Egypt reaffirmed the need for all members of the international community in general and those members actively engaged in conflict in particular to respect the presence of those international forces in areas of strife. He indignantly rejected reports that individuals and units of peace international forces serving under the United Nations flag had engaged in acts of violence aimed at causing damage to the local population. International troops were sent in only with the agreement of both parties to the conflict and the host country's approval. No obstacles must be placed in the way of their success in discharging their mandate.
4. With respect to Lebanon, attacks by Israeli troops and illegitimate armed groups supported by Israel against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were preventing UNIFIL from successfully discharging its mandate. The speedy abolition of the Israeli controlled "security zone" inside Lebanon would be the best way of ensuring the Force's resumption of its effective role and achieving stability and peace for the residents of southern Lebanon and the border areas between Israel and Lebanon.
5. His delegation considered that all Member States had an obligation to contribute to the financing of peace-keeping operations. The new development concerning several parties' readiness to pay their contribution to the peace-keeping operations budget was most welcome. Egypt called upon all parties which were still refusing to pay their assessed contributions to settle their arrears and thus alleviate the financial burden on the troop-contributing States. His delegation wished to pay tribute to all those throughout the world who had sacrificed their lives in the cause of maintaining peace.
6. There was a clear distinction between peace-keeping operations undertaken by the United Nations and other enforcement measures agreed upon under Chapter VII of

(Mr. Aboul-Gheit, Egypt)

the Charter. That distinction should not be blurred. Accordingly, Egypt could not accept that the Military Staff Committee, which consisted of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council, should be allowed to consider and make recommendations to the Council on enforcement measures and other peace-keeping operations.

7. In his report on the work of the Organization (A/42/1), the Secretary-General had noted the possibility of extending the United Nations role to the maintenance of peace at sea and had pointed out the need to plan and be prepared for such eventualities. He hoped that Member States would be kept informed of the conclusions of any study undertaken on the subject.

8. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) welcomed the current positive developments in international relations, which were strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations. His country had always considered that peace-keeping operations should be undertaken only under Chapter VII of the Charter, a conviction strengthened by its current participation in the Security Council, the body which could decide upon the dispatch, control and financing of peace-keeping operations. Experience had shown that unanimity among the members of the Security Council, particularly the permanent members, was indispensable for the success of efforts to maintain and restore international peace and security. Since peace-keeping operations were undertaken on behalf of all Members of the Organization, they should be isolated from international politics. The heat of internal dispute might lead to a dangerous escalation of conflicts when the role of peacemaker was assumed by some Power other than the United Nations. Consequently, the appeal made to all States in paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) to refrain from any act which might lead to further escalation of the conflict was more urgent than ever.

9. The idea of establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security proposed by the socialist countries at the forty-first session of the General Assembly had been acquiring more specific dimensions. An important aspect was that the concept of establishing such a system was based on the Charter and the experience of the United Nations and was first aimed at restoring and fully realizing the enormous positive potential of the Organization.

10. His delegation supported the idea that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations should be given a broad mandate to consider all aspects of such operations, and his country would support any constructive proposals to arouse that Committee from its immobility.

11. In conclusion, the Government and people of Bulgaria wished to pay tribute to the United Nations peace-keeping personnel for their effort and sacrifice in the name of international peace and security.

12. Mr. ABOUASSI (Lebanon) said that Lebanon's position on the subject under discussion remained unchanged with respect to the basic principle. However, the experience of the past year again proved the need to take speedy, effective action to enable UNIFIL, and southern Lebanon itself, to emerge from the current impasse and thus prevent the possibility of more serious conflicts.

(Mr. Abouassi, Lebanon)

13. Over the past 12 months, various incidents had occurred between the Israeli and pro-Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and the United Nations Force. Attacks and bombardments by those forces had resulted in the death or wounding of several UNIFIL soldiers, had brought the agricultural and commercial activity of the region to a standstill and had led to the exodus of many inhabitants, as well as preventing UNIFIL from discharging its mandate. His country wished to express gratitude to the members of that Force and to the countries which had sent contingents.

14. Nor had there been any progress at the political level, largely due to Israeli intransigence, and there was no evidence that the Security Council was making new efforts to find a solution.

15. The difficulties faced by UNIFIL were increased by a serious financial crisis caused by the non-payment of contributions by various countries that imposed unacceptable financial burdens on those sending contingents. The immediate question was whether or not the Security Council was prepared to assume responsibility for the possible disintegration of UNIFIL and the consequences of its withdrawal from Lebanon and, above all, whether the Council was ready to allow its own resolutions to remain unimplemented. The withdrawal of UNIFIL from southern Lebanon would in no way provide a solution to the problem, nor was its presence itself a solution. Its mission should be redefined.

16. The general conditions for the success of peace-keeping operations were generally accepted, but the means of meeting them should still be reconsidered. For instance, co-operation by the parties concerned remained an essential objective but sustained effort, and even the exertion of pressure, was required to achieve it. In that connection, the Lebanese Government wished to express its appreciation of the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff since 1978. Another prerequisite was adequate support from the Security Council, the body primarily responsible for peace-keeping. Paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 444 (1979) had reaffirmed the Council's determination, in the event of continuing obstruction of the mandate of the Force, to examine practical ways and means in accordance with relevant provisions of the Charter to secure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). His delegation hoped that advantage might be taken of the new climate in international relations to reach agreement on such practical ways and means; culminating in the convening of a special meeting of the Security Council. Lebanon itself had taken various steps in that direction since 1979, but, so long as the Security Council resolutions were not implemented and the occupation of southern Lebanon persisted, it was normal that the Lebanese population should resist the occupier.

17. Mr. OKUDA (Japan) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations reflected a compromise between the ideas of the Charter and the reality of current international relations, when sovereign States insisted on having the final say about their own security. Those operations had greatly contributed to preventing the outbreak or escalation of disputes in many parts of the world. It was regrettable, however, that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had

(Mr. Okuda, Japan)

been unable to make any discernable progress owing to differences of views among its key members. The ever-increasing demands placed on United Nations peace-keeping operations made it imperative that they should be made more efficient. The Japanese Government supported the renewal of the Special Committee's mandate and believed that it should undertake a comprehensive review of the question of peace-keeping operations as a whole, including the formulation of guidelines and consideration of practical measures.

18. His delegation paid special tribute to the courageous members of UNIFIL and expressed deep regret that several members had been killed and wounded. It also expressed its sincere gratitude to the countries which had provided the personnel. It was disturbed by reports that the authority vested in those forces by the United Nations was often challenged in the field and called upon the parties concerned to ensure the safety of the forces and facilitate their tasks.

19. All Member States shared a collective responsibility for financially sustaining those operations, and his Government deplored the large deficits which had accrued in the case of UNIFIL and of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), rendering implementation of their mandates extremely difficult. Delays in reimbursement also placed a heavy burden on troop-contributing countries. Despite severe budgetary constraints, the Japanese Government had extended financial support to the peace-keeping operations to the best of its ability and had recently decided to make financial contributions commensurate with its international responsibility once an international framework for co-operation was established and when such operations needed to be funded. Japan once again called upon those Member States which had not yet done so to remit their assessed contributions and, when possible, to make an additional voluntary contribution to ensure the effective functioning of that vitally important role of the United Nations.

20. Mr. SHAH (Pakistan) said that it was regrettable that in 12 years the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had been unable to reach a consensus on agreed guidelines for carrying out peace-keeping operations. A consensus must be achieved in order to find a common approach for the management of such operations. The principle of unity of command should be modified in order to reflect the principles of the Charter and the key role assigned to the Security Council. The resolution of that deadlock would make it possible to institutionalize peace-keeping operations.

21. Support for peace-keeping operations was one of the most effective ways to strengthen the role of the United Nations. Experience had shown that peace-keeping operations had contributed to the establishment of a climate conducive to the peaceful settlement of disputes. The theoretical aspects of peace-keeping should be reconsidered in the light of the United Nations experience in maintaining peace in the world. Peace-keeping was complementary to peace-making and served as the basis for resolving crises and conflicts.

(Mr. Shah, Pakistan)

22. The lack of finances for peace-keeping operations had placed a heavy burden on the troop-contributing countries, particularly developing ones. He emphasized that, once peace-keeping operations were authorized, they must be adequately financed. Those operations were vital in maintaining international peace and security and deserved the full political and financial support of Member States. In accordance with the principles of equity and collective responsibility, the cost of peace-keeping operations should be borne by all Member States, with account taken of the responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and the ability of countries to pay. In that connection, financial constraints should not be construed as a justification for diminishing the political significance of United Nations peace-keeping operations.

23. His delegation expressed its deep appreciation for the efficient, impartial and dedicated manner in which the personnel of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) performed their duties and its gratitude to the countries which contributed contingents to the Observer Group. He reaffirmed his Government's position that the mandate, character and duration of peace-keeping operations authorized by the Security Council could be changed only through a specific decision of the Council. A clear distinction should be made between observer missions and peace-keeping missions, and the effectiveness of such missions in securing and supervising the cessation of hostilities should not be undermined by the principle of "consent". Lastly, he urged the Committee to consider the idea of convening an international conference to overcome the deadlock on the formulation of the substantive principles of peace-keeping operations.

24. Mr. RECHNER (Canada) said that his country had expanded its commitment to UNFICYP by agreeing to the Secretary-General's request to provide an additional 60 Canadian troops. Canada also welcomed the decision by the Government of Austria to increase its UNFICYP contingent. Since the start of United Nations peace-keeping missions, thousands of Canadians had proudly served in operations throughout the world. Peace-keeping was essential for restoring and maintaining international peace and stability. The need to maintain United Nations peace-keeping missions in certain areas for 20 or more years clearly indicated that further work was long overdue. Canada, along with other countries, had put forward numerous suggestions for improving peace-keeping operations. In addition to the political problems involved, the financial situation of peace-keeping operations, particularly with regard to UNIFIL and UNFICYP, remained critical. All the permanent members of the Security Council should give concrete expression to their verbal support for peace-keeping by providing funds to ensure that such operations could continue. In the case of UNFICYP, the contributing countries could not be expected to bear the total cost of peace-keeping, if the permanent members of the Security Council steadfastly refused to contribute on a voluntary basis.

25. Canada welcomed the decision of the Soviet Union to pay its outstanding contributions and looked forward to a further manifestation of that positive attitude in the form of Soviet voluntary contributions to UNFICYP. Since 1948, almost 80,000 Canadian servicemen had served in peace-keeping missions at a cost of

(Mr. Rechner, Canada)

millions of dollars to Canadian taxpayers. In addition, a number of Canadians had lost their lives while carrying out peace-keeping duties. The latest fatalities in UNIFIL once again demonstrated the need for restraint on the part of all concerned and for all parties to participate in the search for political solutions to the problems at hand.

26. One of the most persistent peace-keeping problems involved Cyprus. Canada had been part of UNFICYP for the past 23 years in order to prevent renewed hostilities on the island and had remained impartial on all aspects of the problem, always supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to solve the problem. His Government once again appealed to both sides to begin direct negotiations in order to reduce tension in the area. Lastly, he stressed the need to organize effectively and support peace-keeping missions and, for that reason, called for the renewal of the mandate of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

27. Mr. SCHLICKE (German Democratic Republic) said that there were hopeful signs for an improvement in international relations. The Soviet Union and the United States of America had agreed in principle on the elimination of their medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles. That step would be the beginning of genuine nuclear disarmament in the world and must be followed by others. Although peace-keeping operations were an important collective contribution by the United Nations to solving dangerous regional conflicts, those operations were only of a temporary nature. States and peoples must combine their efforts to bring about a peaceful political settlement of existing hotbeds of conflict and crises.

28. Accordingly, the socialist States had put forward their proposal on the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security which should be based on the Charter of the United Nations and function within the United Nations system. In that connection, he stressed the need to recognize the principle of equal security for all, the right of peoples to self-determination and independence and their right to choose freely their own path of development. A system of international peace and security could be established through result-oriented negotiations and would promote efforts to resolve international conflicts.

29. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations could make an effective contribution to measures taken by the United Nations to settle existing conflicts and prevent the outbreak of new conflicts. The Special Committee should consider the recent proposals made in that regard by the Soviet Union at the beginning of the current session and the relevant proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/42/1). His delegation favoured the renewal of the mandate of the Special Committee and urged its members to adopt a constructive and realistic approach in order to overcome the deadlock in its work.

30. Miss BYRNE (Ireland) said that her country attached central importance to United Nations peace-keeping activities and regarded them as fundamental to the effective implementation of the principles of the Charter. Peace-keeping activities were not intended to replace voluntary means of settling disputes or as a substitute for enforcement actions. Troop-contributing countries looked to the members of the Security Council for support in carrying out peace-keeping operations. Such support was essential to ensure the success of operations and guarantee their financing. Furthermore, a peace-keeping force could succeed only if it enjoyed the full co-operation of the parties to the conflict.

31. Unfortunately, the conditions for successful peace-keeping operations have not always existed in reality. The current situation of UNIFIL continued to cause serious concern. Co-operation was withheld from UNIFIL, and troops were subjected to continual harassment by illegal forces. In the last 14 months, three members of the Irish contingent had lost their lives on duty in southern Lebanon. In that connection, her delegation extended its condolences to the families of the two soldiers from the Nepalese contingent who had recently been killed and reiterated its condemnation of such attacks.

32. Ireland once again called for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and the dismantling of the so-called "security zone". The full co-operation of all parties to the conflict was essential in order to enable UNIFIL to carry out its mission. She welcomed the fact that UNIFIL now had the full backing of all the permanent members of the Security Council and supported the request by the Secretary-General for the necessary co-operation with the Force.

33. A sound financial basis was essential to ensure the effective functioning of peace-keeping operations. That condition had not always been fulfilled in the past and the financial basis of many peace-keeping forces was extremely fragile. Under the Charter, the maintenance of peace was the shared responsibility of all Member States. Accordingly, peace-keeping operations established in accordance with the Charter should be financed collectively by all Member States in an equitable manner.

34. The withholding of mandatory contributions for peace-keeping operations was a violation of Charter obligations. Her Government appealed to all Member States which withheld assessed contributions to begin payment and called upon the Member States which were in arrears to pay promptly and in full. Current funding difficulties had led to a situation in which troop contributors found themselves bearing a disproportionate share of the maintenance costs of peace-keeping operations. A practical solution to that serious problem must be found if the future viability of peace-keeping operations was to be ensured. While recognizing the difficulties confronting the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, her Government hoped that that Committee would soon resume its important work. Lastly, she reaffirmed her country's support for the manner in which the Secretary-General conducted all United Nations peace-keeping operations.



35. Mr. LAGORIO (Argentina) said that, in spite of the consensus on the importance of peace-keeping activities in preventing armed conflict, United Nations peace-keeping operations were undergoing a political and financial crisis. Peace-keeping operations were clearly designed to defuse a critical situation and establish the necessary atmosphere so that diplomatic efforts could be pursued to resolve the conflict.

36. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, at the time of its establishment, had been instructed to undertake a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, a mandate which clearly implied that finances alone were not the sole reason for the establishment of the Committee of 33. His delegation, an original member of the Special Committee, had been insisting in recent years on the need for the Committee to resume meeting in order to comply with its mandate. Although serious difficulties existed, they should not cause the Special Committee to remain in a state of hibernation.

37. The United Nations was fundamentally a forum for negotiation, but that required an exchange of views. His delegation, which occupied the vice-chairmanship of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, therefore added its voice to the emerging consensus for a resumption of the Committee's work in 1988.

38. Everyone knew that the nature of peace-keeping operations was inherently transitory. Peace-keeping forces were not in themselves a mechanism for settling disputes. Their mandate might include a provision for review in order to prevent the renewal of peace-keeping forces from becoming a meaningless ritual, as so often occurred.

39. The Committee of 33, for example, could work out general principles for the monitoring of peace-keeping operations, so as to keep them within the general framework of the peace process and to prevent their taking on a self-perpetuating dynamic.

40. His delegation had listened attentively to the announcement that the Soviet Government would contribute towards eliminating the budget deficit of the United Nations peace-keeping forces. It was necessary for all countries to share the enormous financial burden which often fell almost exclusively upon the shoulders of the troop-contributing countries.

41. For nearly 40 years, peace-keeping operations, despite their failures, had proved to be one of the Organization's major achievements. The United Nations could not neglect the opportunity to revitalize and rationalize those operations.

42. Mr. MONTGOMERY (United States of America) reviewed the history of the development by the United Nations of peace-keeping as an institution. Referring to the search for guidelines for peace-keeping operations, he said that it would be retrogressive to attempt to reopen that question, which had long since been settled. Instead, efforts should be focused upon making peace-keeping operations as efficient as possible. The United States, over the years, had made a number of

(Mr. Montgomery, United States)

proposals to enable peace-keeping operations to be mounted rapidly. He welcomed suggestions along those lines by the Nordic States, Canada and the States members of the European Economic Community.

43. Despite the birth of a possible new era, those who had carried a disproportionate share of the burden could not fail to support the forces in the field. To that end, his administration was seeking the funding necessary to meet its obligations.

44. Peace-keeping forces had played a vital role in avoiding bloodshed and providing opportunities for parties to conflicts to seek settlements. To that end, peace-keeping operations must be supported by the parties to the dispute. If parties accepted the continuation of disputes because the existence of a peace-keeping force made it possible for them to shelter behind it instead of facing and resolving problems, that approach in the long run created a perception of peace-keeping as an alternative to conflict resolution rather than a catalyst for conflict resolution.

45. While there was obviously room for improvement in the effectiveness of peace-keeping, and while a way must be found to make peace-making as vital as peace-keeping, the institution of peace-keeping had, since the 1950s, made an incalculable contribution in assisting the United Nations to fulfil its purposes. An attitude was owed to those who had given their lives in that noble cause. If indeed a new era was beginning of broader support for peace-keeping, it would give added meaning to the sacrifice of those dedicated men.

46. Mr. TEKAYA (Tunisia) said that peace-keeping operations had made an essential contribution to world peace and were among the Organization's most important accomplishments. His delegation wished to pay tribute to those who were serving with United Nations forces, and to express their condolences to the countries whose soldiers had been killed in 1987 while serving under the United Nations flag. It deplored the recent incidents which had cost the lives of two Nepalese members of UNIFIL.

47. His delegation regretted that there was no report from the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, and hoped that the Committee would be able to continue its efforts and eventually to play the important role expected of it.

48. While the Charter had conferred the responsibility for peace-keeping upon the Security Council, the General Assembly's important role in peace-keeping operations could not be ignored. Close co-operation between those two bodies would enhance the operations' chances for success. Peace-keeping operations should never be substituted for attempts at a peaceful settlement of conflicts, nor should they serve as an excuse for maintaining the status quo.

49. Troop-contributing countries were assuming too large a share of the financing for the peace-keeping forces. His country, which had made regular financial contributions within the limits of its means, would support any initiative to place the regular financing of those forces on a more solid footing.

(Mr. Tekaya, Tunisia)

50. Peace-keeping operations must be treated with respect. His delegation noted with concern the deterioration of the already dangerous situation in which UNIFIL was placed, particularly after the attacks on its personnel. The core of the problem lay in Israel's refusal to co-operate with UNIFIL and in its continued harassment of the Force.
51. Despite the problems they faced in accomplishing their task, peace-keeping operations remained a fundamental tool of the United Nations which it was necessary to enhance.
52. Mr. BRACEGIRDLE (New Zealand) said that his country had been steadfast in its support of United Nations peace-keeping operations in the past, by providing personnel and by promptly meeting its financial obligations. That support expressed its strong commitment to international collective security measures. While peace-keeping was not the preferred measure of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, it had served as an invaluable means towards that goal, pending agreement among the members of the Organization on the implementation of the collective security measures provided in the Charter.
53. His country recently had decided to increase its support for peace-keeping activities by making units available for peace-keeping purposes from within all three branches of its armed forces.
54. His delegation regretted the past failure of some countries to meet their financial obligations, which had imposed an excessive burden on certain States, including developing countries. He urged those countries that had not met their financial obligations to do so promptly.
55. Since peace-keeping forces were often sent to some of the most hazardous areas in the world, the lives of their personnel were often on the line, as had been tragically borne out by the experience of UNIFIL. It was incumbent upon all States to support the Organization's peace-keeping personnel in the difficult but vital contribution that they were called upon to make to the maintenance of international peace and security.
56. Mr. VIKIS (Cyprus) said his delegation fully recognized the importance of the role of the United Nations in peace-keeping and peace-making, and considered that the comments made on the subject by the Secretary-General in his latest annual report (A/42/1) deserved the most serious consideration. In spite of the difficulties involved, it seemed possible to proceed with the task of establishing sounder relations for regional and international peace and security. In the new constellation of international relations which seemed to be developing, every effort should be made to concentrate on issues where there was a convergence of interests rather than on those which divided the international community. The maintenance of peace by the United Nations, either through the deployment of peace-keeping forces after the cessation of armed hostilities or through activities aimed at preventing the outbreak of such hostilities was an area where common denominators ought to be sought at the regional or international level. The United

(Mr. Vikis, Cyprus)

Nations could play a unique role in that respect. What was required was a commitment to the cause of peace and the prevention and containment of armed conflict through increased use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations on the part of every member of the international community and particularly of the permanent members or the Security Council.

57. No Member State had ever seriously questioned the invaluable role of UNFICYP, although the duration of the operation had invited occasional comment. What must never be forgotten, however, was that in 1974 Turkey had unleashed a massive military attack against Cyprus and had since then not only refused to withdraw its military forces from the island but increased them. Under those circumstances the continued presence of UNFICYP was indispensable. However, the shortcomings in UNFICYP's financing were serious and the burden on the troop-contributing countries considerable. His delegation urged Member States to consider with all due seriousness the question of the financing of UNFICYP and of other United Nations peace-keeping operations in order to put the financial aspects of such operations on a permanent and more equitable basis.

58. There was an unresolved problem in Cyprus of international as well as internal dimensions. In order to facilitate the solution of that problem, the President of Cyprus had recently proposed the establishment there of an international peace force under the auspices of the United Nations coupled with the total demilitarization of the island. His delegation believed that proposal was in the spirit of the ideas put forward by the Secretary-General concerning new and innovative forms of peace-keeping, and again urged the Secretary-General and members of the Security Council to give the proposal careful and constructive consideration.

59. Serious consideration should also be given to another aspect of the issue of peace-keeping: that of the possibility of a change by the Security Council in the terms of reference of an operation if and when the realities of the particular situation involved changed suddenly and radically. In 1974, Turkey's intention to invade Cyprus had been clear to all concerned. If the Security Council had had the political will and there had been a precedent such as he was suggesting for a change in the terms of reference of a United Nations peace-keeping operation, the invasion could have been averted, peace would have been safeguarded and the Cyprus problem solved long ago.

60. Mr. THOMPSON (Fiji) said that, in view of the wide agreement that peace-keeping was one of the more important functions of the United Nations, it was regrettable that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had not found it possible to carry out its terms of reference and had not in fact been able to report for the last four years. With the recent deterioration of conditions in many parts of the world, the urgency of the need to find a way to enable the Special Committee to carry out its functions needed no emphasizing.

61. For any peace-keeping mission to succeed, it was essential to have a clearly defined mandate, the firm support of the Security Council and the full and active co-operation of all the parties involved. In some serious instances of conflict it

(Mr. Thompson, Fiji)

was also essential for the Security Council, and especially its permanent members, to act decisively to enforce the decisions of the Council. Member States must also meet their financial obligations. Unfortunately, neither of those prerequisites had received the fullest collective support.

62. As a troop contributor to UNIFIL since its inception, his Government was disappointed that the Force had been unable to fulfil its mandate because of lack of support from all the relevant parties. Nevertheless, it fully endorsed the Secretary-General's belief that UNIFIL constituted a vital stabilizing influence in its area of operation.

63. UNIFIL also suffered from chronic financial difficulties, caused partly by substantial arrears and partly by the withholding of contributions by a major contributor as well as many other Member States. That had placed an unfair and unduly heavy burden on the troop-contributing countries. His country was, nevertheless, fully committed to the peace-keeping responsibilities of the United Nations, and would continue to play a role in such operations when called upon in the future. It believed that such involvement was one of the ways in which a small country could demonstrate its commitment to the ideals of the Charter and contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

64. Mr. POLICHTCHOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in today's complex and increasingly interdependent world there was a clear need to strengthen the role of the United Nations and particularly of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. One of the ways in which that could be accomplished was by strengthening and expanding the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. For that reason his delegation supported the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and felt that it should meet in 1988.

65. The question of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations was also of importance. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic contributed to UNIFIL and was prepared to consider the possibility of helping to eliminate the budgetary deficit of United Nations peace-keeping forces.

66. In a recent article entitled "Reality and safeguards for a secure world", General Secretary Gorbachev had put forward a number of proposals for strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security. His delegation considered that those proposals would provide a good basis for the discussion of specific measures for the normalization of international relations and the construction of a comprehensive system of international security.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.