



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland)

later: Mr. FASEHUN (Nigeria)

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AGENDA ITEM 78: 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 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 78: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/43/566)

1. Mr. McDONAGH (Ireland) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement on the agenda item that the representative of Greece had made earlier on behalf of the 12 States belonging to the European Community.
2. Peace-keeping had been one of the successes of the United Nations, as could be illustrated by a balance sheet of its costs and benefits. Peace-keeping and the courage of the men and women who took part in it, emblematic of the seriousness of the United Nations in the sense that action followed deliberation, had a resonance beyond their practical impact: hence the great satisfaction that the Nobel Peace Prize had been awarded to them.
3. In a period of new hope for international convergence, in which there had been significant progress in arms control and disarmament as well as impressive steps towards the resolution of regional conflicts, it was coming to be more clearly realized that an increasingly integrated world should offer far less scope for armed conflict. Ireland shared the expectations to which that situation had given rise.
4. It was appropriate to examine the question of peace-keeping operations against the background of the hopes for an international society. The United Nations must be in a position to respond effectively to any circumstances that called for the establishment of a peace-keeping mission. Each successful mission strengthened the tradition and was a stepping-stone towards a fuller realization of the purposes of the United Nations, as a result of which such operations would become less necessary.
5. Contributing to the effective functioning of the current peace-keeping system, whose flexibility should be underscored, were the following factors: first, a peace-keeping operation should at all times have the full backing of the membership of the United Nations, including, of course, the permanent members of the Security Council; secondly, it should have a specific and well-defined mandate, which meant that each operation must at intervals be stringently reviewed and that its sphere of action must be limited; the third essential factor was the Secretary-General's role in organizing and guiding the operation, in which connection Ireland expressed its full confidence in the manner in which he was carrying out that critical task; fourthly, the operation must have a sound and stable financial basis; and lastly, it must have the consent of the countries in whose territories it was stationed, be acceptable to all parties to the dispute and have their full co-operation in the field. By and large, the methods developed had been well chosen, and when difficulties had arisen the cause could be traced more to a lack of political resolve than to any structural deficiency.

(Mr. McDonagh, Ireland)

6. Ireland was concerned about the political implications of any failure by Member States to discharge their financial obligations under the Charter. Delayed payments arising from economic difficulties that any State might encounter were not at issue, but rather the practice of withholding assessed mandatory contributions for political reasons. It was evident that such a practice might be interpreted by the parties to a conflict as a lack of support or even of serious regard for a particular peace-keeping operation, which could bring into question the credibility of all such operations.

7. His delegation believed that the traditional methods of financing peace-keeping operations, including special mandatory assessments, were equitable and could be made to work effectively. It was essential that mandatory assessed contributions be paid in full and within a reasonable time. His Government did not, furthermore, consider that the voluntary financing arrangements for the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) had set a reliable precedent. Voluntary contributions were to be encouraged, on the understanding that they were complementary to and not a substitute for mandatory contributions, which should be adequate to meet the costs of peace-keeping missions.

8. Unfortunately, the conditions for success had not been met in a peace-keeping operation in which Ireland had participated since 1978. While the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) now enjoyed the political support of the permanent members of the Security Council, as reflected in its improved financial position, the threat of harassment of UNIFIL personnel in South Lebanon regrettably persisted. Ireland appealed to all parties to the conflict to co-operate with UNIFIL and allow it to be deployed throughout its designated area of operations and up to the internationally recognized frontier.

9. His Government believed that the United Nations peace-keeping operations had worked and would continue to work well, although there was always room for further improvement. Their future character would be given shape in large part by the international community's response to the challenges that presented themselves.

10. Mr. SELL (German Democratic Republic) said that the peaceful settlement of disputes, in keeping with Charter principles and taking duly into account the legitimate interests of the parties involved, continued to be the general principle that determined his country's approach to the complex problems under consideration. The peace-keeping operations were indispensable and were important politically. The operations were part of the many collective efforts by the Organization to maintain international peace and security, and on a number of occasions they had been effective.

11. The United Nations potential for helping to maintain international peace and security through its peace-keeping operations was great. Therefore, his delegation supported increasing the funding of the operations and enhancing their efficiency in order to guarantee the settlement of regional conflicts. The appointment of observers to supervise compliance with the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the measures recently taken to put an end to the conflict between Iran and Iraq and the

(Mr. Sell, German Democratic Republic)

dispatching of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) clearly demonstrated that steps towards peace-keeping could be taken.

12. The German Democratic Republic attached particular importance to the work of the Special Committee in maintaining and promoting peace, and therefore recommended the earliest possible resumption of its work, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/161, so that its reactivation would continue and it could fulfil its mandate. Everything possible should be done to bring that about, and the Special Committee's mandate should be renewed. It was hoped that the Special Committee would take due account in its substantive discussions of the many proposals and suggestions that had been made regarding the strengthening and effectiveness of the peace-keeping operations.

13. It continued to be important to strengthen the preventive role of peace-keeping operations. With that in mind, the Special Committee should determine ways of making the peace-keeping operations better able to act also to prevent conflicts and to monitor situations that might destabilize regional and international security. For instance, the possibility might be considered of resorting more frequently to special and fact-finding missions and to the appointment of United Nations observers.

14. His delegation wished to reiterate that, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council had exclusive competence for the conduct of peace-keeping operations in pursuance of the task entrusted to it by the Member States, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security. That principle should therefore be taken as a premise in considering any peace-keeping operations and his country supported a stronger role for the Security Council in all matters related to those operations.

15. With respect to the financing of future United Nations peace-keeping operations, his delegation believed that, in addition to collective financing, it would be possible to obtain voluntary contributions combined with self-financing by troop contributors. Furthermore, the principle of the special responsibility of the parties involved in situations requiring peace-keeping operations could be applied. It was necessary to ensure that future operations could also be financed outside the regular budget. With a view to supporting peace-keeping operations, his country had told the Secretary-General that it was prepared to participate in the civilian component of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG).

16. Mr. PAOLILLO (Uruguay) said that the award of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peace-keeping forces was a recognition of the quiet work of those forces not only by the Nobel Prize Committee but by the entire international community. The honour went not only to the members of the peace-keeping forces themselves but also to all those who had participated in the organization of its operations, including the United Nations Secretary-General and the military and civil personnel supporting him.

(Mr. Paolillo, Uruguay)

17. Nevertheless, peace-keeping operations were not a new phenomenon, but dated to the beginnings of the United Nations. Forty years before the awarding of the Nobel Prize, the first peace-keeping operation had already been initiated to guard the borders between Israel and the neighbouring Arab States. Since then, even the most severe critics of the Organization had acknowledged that the peace-keeping operations reflected United Nations activity at its best.

18. His country was proud of having contributed from the beginning to those operations. From 1949 to the present, it had sent officers to the observers group on the India-Pakistan border and there were now Uruguayan forces in the United Nations Military Observers Group for Iran and Iraq (UNIIMOG).

19. The questions of how to strengthen and expand peace-keeping operations, and how to ensure their effectiveness and facilitate their use had once again become a topical issue not only because they had been awarded the Nobel Prize, but for two other reasons: first, because the prospects of real understanding in the Security Council seemed to be clearer now than at any other time and, secondly, because the evolution of the current world situation seemed to call for a widening of the scope of those operations, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his 1988 report on the work of the Organization.

20. His country believed that a comprehensive review of peace-keeping operations could be conducted by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, which could play a much more active role than it had done thus far. However, that task should not mean the establishment of regulations or conditions which would impede smooth and timely action by the United Nations. The flexible and pragmatic approach, which was one of the most attractive features of the peace-keeping operations, should be maintained. Operations had always been adapted to the particular circumstances of the conflict so as not to restrict the ability of the Security Council or the Secretary-General to act or to reduce the prospects for success.

21. The proposed review should also lead to alternative systems of security or to substantive changes in the present system. The Special Committee should explore the options to be deduced from the existing texts and the machinery established under the Charter. For example, a study could be made of the possibility of establishing a global system for collecting, centralizing and updating information relating to civilian or military personnel and the material and other resources that Governments were willing to make available to the Organization for purposes of peace-keeping operations. Similarly, assistance should be provided for the specialized training of national contingents made available by States to the United Nations, so that the assigned personnel would be adequately prepared to perform their functions. The Special Committee could also consider more widespread preventive use of peace-keeping forces in situations whose continuation could lead to conflict. Lastly, now that conflicts extended to surrounding waters, requiring the organization of peace-keeping operations of a special nature, different from land-based operations, new operational methods should be explored applicable to sea-based peace-keeping operations.

(Mr. Paolillo, Uruguay)

22. With respect to the financial aspect, Member States should accept the obligation to finance the peace-keeping forces according to their capacity and the criteria established by the scale of assessments for the maintenance of the Organization.
23. Uruguay would continue its full support for peace-keeping operations and hoped that all Member States, the major contributors, in particular, would also fulfil their responsibilities.
24. Mr. KIRSCH (Canada) said that peace-keeping operations since their inception, had been an integral and central part of his country's commitment to the United Nations and of Canada's foreign and defence policies. Canada had participated in all the peace-keeping operations to date, to which it had contributed approximately 80,000 troops, 78 of whom had died on active duty for the United Nations.
25. His country welcomed the new vitality demonstrated by the peace-keeping operations in 1988, when the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and UNIIMOG had been established. In 1988, there had also been clear signs that peace-keeping forces could help to resolve conflicts in Namibia, Western Sahara and Kampuchea. In addition, also in 1988, the Nobel Prize Committee, in awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the peace-keeping forces, had recognized their role: while they were no substitute for the negotiation of a comprehensive peace between the parties to the conflict, they could, with the co-operation of those parties, keep the situation from deteriorating further.
26. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, established in 1965, had tried very hard to conduct a review of the question of peace-keeping operations in all its aspects. His country had actively participated in the deliberations of the Special Committee since its inception and one of its vice-chairmen had been Canadian. His country hoped that substantive matters would continue to be examined in future negotiations of the Special Committee.
27. Each of the peace-keeping operations had been unique in many ways and provision could not be made for all contingencies. Nevertheless, since various problems were common to practically all the operations, the Special Committee should formulate recommendations to be applied in future.
28. Canada had suggested that Member States should designate reserve units of their armies for service with the United Nations and should inform the Organization of the types of units, personnel, equipment and services most readily available for peace-keeping operations. They could be whole units or smaller groups which could be combined with those of other countries. Governments could also appoint officers on an individual basis who might serve in observer groups and had been trained for that task. For its part, Canada maintained a reserve unit for service with the United Nations and had a list of available and appropriately trained officers to function as observers.

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

29. The United Nations, in co-operation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Peace Academy and interested Member States, might prepare manuals of normal operational procedures and staff responsibilities and notes containing guidelines for potential contributors. Canada welcomed in particular the seminars on peace-keeping activities organized by the International Peace Academy and hoped that that important work would continue to make satisfactory progress in the future.

30. With regard to the financing of peace-keeping operations, Canada welcomed the fact that many more States Members were currently paying their apportioned contributions for those operations; it also believed however that high priority should be given to an equitable arrangement for financing future operations, not only in order to lighten the burden of the countries which contributed troops but also to ensure that more Member States participated in the operations.

31. Canada welcomed the renewal of the Special Committee's mandate and urged its members to continue to make progress speedily, taking advantage of the fact that parties to conflicts were increasingly willing to have recourse to United Nations peace-keeping operations. In that connection, Canada welcomed the interest expressed by China in the Special Committee and hoped that that country would participate in its deliberations.

32. Canada continued to be ready to participate in peace-keeping operations. The establishment of lasting peace would depend on the goodwill of all nations to collaborate in a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding.

33. Mr. Fasehun (Nigeria) took the Chair.

34. Mr. TEKAYA (Tunisia) said that his country was especially interested in two new peace-keeping operations, namely, the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). Tunisia hoped that, with the co-operation of the parties concerned, those operations would ensure the maintenance of genuine peace in the respective regions and would make an effective contribution to the creation of favourable conditions for the peaceful and permanent solution of two conflicts which represented a threat to international peace and security.

35. It was the earnest hope of Tunisia that one of the operations to which the international community had looked forward most keenly, namely, the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG) would shortly commence its task, which would certainly assist in accelerating the access of Namibia to independence within the framework of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

36. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the peace-keeping forces reaffirmed the unique role of those forces and constituted a token of gratitude for their self-denial, heroism and sacrifice and a tribute to the entire United Nations system whose efficiency and usefulness certain groups had questioned.

(Mr. Tekaya, Tunisia)

37. Tunisia recognized the important role which the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations could play. It therefore welcomed the resumption of the Special Committee's meetings and its determination to overcome past obstacles to its work. Bearing in mind the growing importance of peace-keeping operations, greater effort should be exerted to enable the Special Committee to cope with future peace-keeping operations. It was to be hoped that the Special Committee would continue its efforts at dialogue and co-operation so that, with the improvement in international political relations, agreement would be reached on clear guidelines for peace-keeping operations.

38. Tunisia had noted with satisfaction that, in 1988, the Security Council had functioned effectively and in accordance with the will of the entire international community in a number of dangerous situations such as the war between Iran and Iraq. Nevertheless, Tunisia noted with concern that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), one of the most important United Nations forces, was still unable to carry out its assigned mission because of intolerable attacks against its personnel and, in particular, the obstinacy of Israel in continuing its partial occupation of Lebanon alleging security reasons in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

39. The financing of peace-keeping operations was one of the most disturbing problems. The Secretary-General had repeatedly brought that situation to the attention of Member States. Tunisia reiterated that it was ready to support any initiative which would provide a more solid basis for the regular financing of such operations. It had always supported those operations in keeping with its attachment to the principles and ideals of the Charter and its faith in the basic role which those operations could play in putting an end to hostilities, in protecting populations and in the search for peaceful solutions. Indeed, Tunisia had been one of the first to contribute troops to those operations. In 1960, during the Congo crisis, Tunisia had seconded 3,000 troops to the United Nations for a period of three years.

40. Mr. DHOUBHADEL (Nepal) said that the participation of his country in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and in the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan demonstrated its interest in United Nations peace-keeping operations in which Nepal had participated since 1957. It was therefore highly gratified by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peace-keeping operations and fully supported the Secretary-General's view on the need to further strengthen the peace-keeping capacity of the Organization. The formulation and strict observance of well-defined and practical guidelines for peace-keeping operations and the political will to find negotiated and peaceful solutions of conflicts were crucial to success. The ideal solution would be the creation of a permanent United Nations peace-keeping force but, in the absence of such a force, Nepal urged the strengthening of the existing system, including provision of a sound financial basis. That was even more important at a time when the United Nations was deeply involved in the search for peace in the Gulf region and when there was a distinct possibility of missions in Western Sahara and Namibia. Although Nepal was a least developed country, it had made sacrifices not

(Mr. Dhoubhadel, Nepal)

only in terms of human lives but also in terms of a heavy financial burden which was not being shared fairly. Peace-keeping operations were a collective responsibility, as were their financial implications, and each Member State must fulfil its financial commitments in that regard. As a troop-contributing country, Nepal was also concerned about the safety of personnel and hoped that due attention would be paid to that aspect.

41. His delegation wished to express appreciation of the excellent work done by the United Nations Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. It favoured strengthening the Committee and fully supported the application of the People's Republic of China for membership. He also wished to express the interest of Nepal in becoming a member of the Special Committee. In conclusion, he wished to draw the attention of the Committee to the following points concerning peace-keeping operations: the need for urgent measures to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the operations, agreement on a set of guidelines on both the theoretical and practical aspects of such operations and on safeguards for the protection of personnel; provision of adequate financial resources; creation of an atmosphere in which Member States would have the necessary political will to abide by the principles of the Charter; compilation of a register containing information on the availability of troops and the provision of logistical assistance for peace-keeping operations.

42. Mr. KASSIM (Malaysia), recalled the recent award of the Nobel Prize to the peace-keeping forces and paid tribute to the sacrifice made by the men and women who had served in them. It was interesting to note that such forces had not been provided for by the founding States when they drew up the Charter of the United Nations. Primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lay with the Security Council, and it had been envisaged that peace-keeping operations would take place within the framework of a collective security system, with the Great Powers acting in concert. That approach had been frustrated by the deterioration in the international political climate, and observer missions and peace-keeping forces had therefore been established to enable the Security Council to exercise its mandate. Since the establishment in June 1948 of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO), 15 operations had been carried out in areas of conflict, and four observer missions and three peace-keeping forces were still in operation, with the prospect that another would be sent to Namibia. Malaysia, which was proud to have participated in some of those operations, and specifically in the United Nations Operation in the Congo (UNOC) and in the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), was ready to contribute troops to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia.

43. After 40 years of peace-keeping operations, it would be timely to draw up the formal ground rules for such operations, and his country supported the call made by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations for the formulation of guidelines in that connection. Peace-keeping operations could only be implemented if parties to a dispute consented to the deployment of troops, not only to contain the escalation of conflicts but also to facilitate serious negotiations.

(Mr. Kassim, Malaysia)

44. It was also worth considering the possibility of a system whereby troops from Member States could be dispatched expeditiously to areas of conflict. That would involve both the availability of armed forces and the preparation of such forces to meet situations of that type. It would thus be useful if Member States would undertake to maintain a reserve of troops, together with adequate military equipment, logistics and other facilities and to draw up common guidelines for the training of senior officers.

45. One question which caused concern to the United Nations and the countries participating in the peace-keeping forces was the issue of financing, which remained the foremost problem. His country hoped that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations would succeed in resolving all those urgent problems and would arrive at acceptable formulae. It welcomed China's application for membership in the Special Committee and stressed the importance of such United Nations activities, which had reduced bloodshed and violence and had paved the way for the solution of certain conflicts.

46. Ms. PELLICER (Mexico) said that, owing to various factors, namely, the outcome of certain regional conflicts, the award of the Nobel Prize to peace-keeping operations, the favourable attitude taken by some of the most powerful countries towards the Organization, and the détente between the United States and the Soviet Union, which could offset the adverse effects of the East-West confrontation in the international sphere, it might be claimed that the forty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations marked a watershed in the history of the Organization. Such grounds for optimism, however, should not obscure the fragility of the progress achieved or the fact that less attention was being paid to crucial problems and the possibility of advancing towards an international order in which the sovereign equality of States must be respected.

47. There was general agreement on the importance of peace-keeping operations as the most prominent aspect of United Nations activities in the field of international peace and security. It had been pointed out that, if such operations were to succeed, the parties concerned must agree to them, the approval of the Security Council must be forthcoming, and the Member States must be prepared to contribute troops and adequate financial resources. In fact, there were many problems which had hitherto been solved on an improvised basis. The first such problem was financing. Her delegation had always accepted the principle, reaffirmed by the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, that it was an obligation upon all Member States of the Organization to bear the cost of such operations. There were, however, considerable doubts about the way in which those costs should be apportioned, particularly if the economic difficulties of the developing countries, and especially the debtor countries, were taken into consideration.

48. The second problem was the lack of machinery for ensuring adequate preparation of the highly diverse contingents participating in peace-keeping operations. That deficiency would become conspicuous when Namibia gained its independence.

(Ms. Pellicer, Mexico)

49. A third problem related to the lack of machinery to permit planning for peace-keeping operations in new areas, such as naval forces, or for other purposes, such as preventive diplomacy.

50. Previous experience showed how much remained to be done to strengthen and anticipate peace-keeping operations and to enhance their room for manoeuvre. It was therefore all the more surprising that the Special Committee had not functioned more effectively. The report which had been submitted with difficulty, disguised the fact that until recently the Committee's deliberations had lacked substance. Her delegation, which was a member of the Committee and its Working Group, could not understand the reasoning of those who could not seriously consider reactivating its work. In order to overcome apparently irreconcilable differences, it was thought prudent in some working groups established by the General Assembly to leave it to closed informal groups to establish the guidelines for decision making. Her delegation did not agree with such procedures, which undermined the participatory and democratic nature of the discussions.

51. The positive spirit which now prevailed indicated that the time was ripe to revive the Special Committee's activities and that, while differences might continue, there was no reason to avoid debate; it was sufficient to approach the issues constructively. Finally, her delegation supported China's application for membership in the Committee.

52. Mr. KAGAMI (Japan) said that peace-keeping operations should not be limited to safeguarding the status quo, but should facilitate efforts towards a settlement of the regional conflict with which they were concerned. The Nobel Prize awarded that year to the United Nations peace-keeping forces was clear testimony to the high regard in which the international community held the Organization's work and constituted implicit recognition of the world's expectation that peace-keeping operations would play an even greater role in the future. His delegation welcomed the two peace-keeping operations established that year, namely the Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), which had already proved to be a stabilizing factor in their respective regions.

53. In dealing with the growing demand for United Nations peace-keeping operations, the very practical issue of the financing of current and future operations was the most urgent issue. While appreciating the co-operation of the troop-contributing countries, he pointed out that the cost of the operations currently under way amounted to approximately \$US 330 million per year, and he wondered how the current and anticipated operations would be financed, in view of the fact that their expenses would exceed the current budget of the Organization as a whole.

54. It would thus be necessary to examine the way in which those operations were financed and administered. In that respect, he stressed that all Member States would have to recognize their responsibilities and pay their assessed contributions. Even then, those funds might not suffice to cover the total costs;

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

therefore, voluntary contributions should be encouraged and countries which benefited directly from peace-keeping operations might be invited to assume additional financial responsibility. Another urgent issue to be addressed was that of securing the funds to cover the start-up costs of new peace-keeping operations. For its part, Japan would continue its efforts to contribute to UNGOMAP and UNIIMOG activities.

55. In order to determine how efficiently funds allocated to peace-keeping operations were being used, more detailed reports on the financing of various operations might be requested, and the possibility might be studied of strengthening existing mechanisms or setting up a new body to ensure the most efficient use of existing personnel, logistical supplies and equipment.

56. The Special Political Committee continued to be entrusted with the important task of formulating guidelines that would facilitate the rapid deployment of peace-keeping forces and observers, with sufficient flexibility to take account of the particular situations in which they were placed.

57. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had resumed its activities in accordance with the mandate given it by General Assembly resolution 42/161. In view of the difficulties facing those operations and the slow pace of the Special Committee's progress, it was essential that further efforts should be made to guarantee the success of its work. Japan welcomed the fact that China was to become a member of the Committee.

58. He paid tribute to the peace-keeping force in Lebanon and called on all interested parties to guarantee the safety of the peace-keeping forces and facilitate their task.

59. Japan was determined to contribute as much as possible to the United Nations peace-keeping activities by expanding its financial and logistical assistance and increasing the participation of Japanese personnel in non-military aspects of the operations.

60. Mr. ANAKY (Côte d'Ivoire) drew attention to the difficult role of the United Nations peace-keeping forces, which had to intervene in areas of tension and whose usefulness had been demonstrated, inter alia, in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Golan, Cyprus and Kashmir. It was encouraging that the Oslo authorities had awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the forces; that enhanced the credibility of the Organization as a whole.

61. Despite the success that the peace-keeping forces appeared to have in the field, there continued to be difficulties in the functioning of the forces, since the parties to the conflict did not always understand the objective of those operations; in addition, the suspension of the Special Committee's meetings during the past four years reflected the difficulty of overcoming differences of view with regard to the perception and analysis of conflicts and approaches to peace-keeping. He expressed satisfaction at the fact that two meetings had been

(Mr. Anaky, Côte d'Ivoire)

held during the current year and that China was to become a member of the Special Committee.

62. If peace was a situation in which the right to be different was respected, the parties to armed conflicts should conduct themselves in a responsible manner towards the peace-keeping forces, showing their sincere determination to hold a dialogue in a spirit of compromise and taking advantage of the current political climate, which was conducive to negotiation. The lack of progress in the Special Committee's work reflected the complexity involved in drafting a mandate for the peace-keeping forces and should serve as a stimulus to the permanent members of the Security Council to maintain regular contacts in order to harmonize their views concerning the initial signs of possible conflicts.

63. No less important was the problem of financing the forces. Member States had a collective responsibility to finance such operations, while the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in that respect should not be overlooked. His Government paid tribute to the troop-contributing countries and suggested that, if part of the costs were borne by the belligerents, that might bring about a significant reduction in the hostilities.

64. Mr. CHAVUNDUKA (Zimbabwe) said that the item under consideration by the Special Political Committee was one of the most important on its agenda. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, of which Zimbabwe was a member, considered that its faith in the United Nations was central and recognized the essential role of peace-keeping operations. In that connection, at its Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs held in Cyprus in September 1988, the Movement had decided to establish an open-ended working group to study the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes, and its work would be considered at the Conference of Heads of State or Government in 1989. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries considered that peace-keeping operations had long demonstrated their effectiveness, as in the case of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Jerusalem, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, the United Nations Force in Cyprus and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. Mention should also be made of two recent operations, i.e. the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). His country congratulated the peace-keeping forces on having been awarded the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize, which recognized the crucial and effective role they were playing in the maintenance of international peace and security. He also congratulated the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat, since they contributed to the success of those operations, and the States which contributed troops for them.

65. Among the factors which the Secretary-General had identified in his 1988 report on the work of the Organization, he noted the importance of the consent of parties to a conflict and referred to the example of the United Nations force in Lebanon, which had been unable to carry out its mandate because of the presence of Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. Another cause for concern was the question of the financing of peace-keeping operations, since the assessed contributions of

(Mr. Chavunduka, Zimbabwe)

Member States outstanding on peace-keeping operations amounted to nearly \$US 370 million. Member States should assume their responsibilities, since sooner or later they would all have to make their commitment to the cause of peace by providing even more financial resources than they were currently expected to provide. However, the practice of the majority of Member States afforded no assurance that peace-keeping operations could be adequately financed and it would be regrettable if the States prepared to contribute troops did not do so because of the uncertainty of the financial implications surrounding such a commitment. His Government would follow closely the consultations regarding the establishment of a special fund for peace-keeping operations and hoped that such a fund would be successful in resolving the problem.

66. His Government took note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations and pointed out that it was encouraging that the Committee had been able to hold informal consultations on important issues such as the financial aspects of peace-keeping operations, the need to compile a registry containing information on the availability of troops and the provision of logistical assistance. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries looked forward to the next meeting of the Special Committee, with the participation of its new member, China.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.