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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING  
OPERATIONS

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING  
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[30 May 1989]

The Ukrainian SSR is a constant advocate of a greater role for the United Nations in the settlement of international conflicts and in world affairs generally. This is consistent with the idea of comprehensive international security for all States without distinction, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the objective of solving international problems and settling crises by political and legal means alone.

Accordingly, the Ukrainian SSR believes it essential to put new life into the Special Committee, so as to make more effective use of and improve on peace-keeping operations, a form of intervention machinery already available within the United Nations, and give the United Nations greater authority in the political settlement of conflicts. Having the Special Committee function on a regular basis and giving its activities a constructive slant is now on the agenda, with a view to arriving at a procedure for the conduct of peace-keeping operations in the light of existing practice and experience and the problems confronting the world community.

The Ukrainian SSR believes in this connection that it would be worth while for the Special Committee to discuss and identify areas of agreement and draw up generally acceptable recommendations on the following aspects of peace-keeping operations.

Procedure for assembling peace-keeping forces

The Ukrainian SSR in principle supports the proposed creation of a reserve of United Nations observers and armed forces. Upon request from the Secretary-General, States might indicate their willingness to take part in future United Nations peace-keeping operations and submit possible information on the type and extent of the contingents and outfitting facilities they could provide. In the view of the Ukrainian SSR, whether a given State should take part in a particular United Nations operation should be decided in the light of that State's view on the matter, subject to the nature of the operation and the circumstances, and in strict accordance with the Charter.

The proposed establishment on a reciprocal basis of personnel training systems for United Nations forces (courses, seminars etc.), and creation of an international centre or programme for personnel training under United Nations auspices also merit consideration. As regards the outfitting of United Nations forces, the Special Committee could ask the Secretary-General to draw up a list of States prepared to take part and catalogues of the equipment etc. concerned.

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Decisions on peace-keeping operations

It makes sense to follow the principle whereby operations are conducted at the request or with the consent of the parties to the conflict and by decision of the Security Council, which is empowered to decide on an operation on behalf of all Member States of the Organization. The Secretary-General needs to be given some freedom of action in guiding operations. On his own initiative, for example, and with the concurrence of the Security Council, he might dispatch missions of military observers. Such missions could be used, inter alia, to avert military conflicts.

The finances of United Nations peace-keeping operations must rest on firm foundations. Particular attention must be paid to the rational use of resources. How these questions are dealt with will largely determine the future of peace-keeping operations. In the view of the Ukrainian SSR, various means of financing may be used, including voluntary contributions, financing by the receiving party or parties or by interested States, or payment, wholly or in part, by the United Nations.

Possible supplementary sources of financing must also be studied.

The use of United Nations operations is an important topic. The intervention machinery at the disposal of the United Nations must be used effectively, in support of the Organization's peace-making functions, to separate the forces of the opposing sides and monitor cease-fires and truce agreements. The Security Council must determine the duration of operations and establish time-frames for the activities planned. More extensive use should be made of the potential of the Military Staff Committee. One of the main objectives should be to avert emerging conflicts - in other words, to make greater preventive use of United Nations operations. Where conflicts do break out, peace-keeping operations must also encourage the creation and active use of peaceful settlement procedures. If necessary, they might also be called in to help resolve humanitarian issues - refugees, prisoners etc.

New approaches to the use of United Nations operations are also worth considering. The suggestion that the Security Council, after consultations with regional organizations, could establish United Nations observer posts in regions at risk of conflict deserves attention. In the event of mutual accusations it could send special missions to investigate, observe, gather information, seek means of settlement, monitor the removal of foreign military presences and so forth. Such missions could be military, civilian or of mixed composition.

It would be expedient to study the proposed use of United Nations personnel and observers in cases where States allege outside interference in order to destabilize the internal situation or overthrow the Government.

The Ukrainian SSR believes that United Nations forces sent to regions of tension should stimulate the search for mutually acceptable agreements between the parties on the basis of a strictly maintained balance of interests.

The subject of possible United Nations naval operations, to guarantee the safety of shipping, and other issues related to it, require serious study.

We believe it is essential to harmonize approaches to enhancing the efficiency of United Nations operations and increasing the amount of co-operation among members of the Security Council. Informal consultations among the permanent members, with the Secretary-General in attendance, could be of assistance in this.

In particular, the Security Council might turn its attention to the subject of preventive operations for averting conflicts, and periodically review the situation in regions where United Nations forces are deployed with a view to specific action in furtherance of a political settlement.

The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to United Nations peace-keeping operations and believes that, properly and effectively used, and subject to further improvements, they have enormous potential as a means of shaping comprehensive international security, enhancing the role and authority of the United Nations, settling international crises and conflicts by political means and preventing their occurrence.

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