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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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ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[4 May 1990]

1. The Government of Argentina is pleased to note the climate of détente which has recently been gaining ground in the world community. This improved climate is due in large measure to the political will to seek mutual understanding on the part of the major world Powers and to the changes that are occurring in Europe and elsewhere.

These developments have resulted in an enhancement of the role of the United Nations, especially the leading role it plays in maintaining and preserving international peace and security.

2. In support of the renewed confidence in international organizations in general and the United Nations in particular, the Government of Argentina agreed to take an active part in the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), responding to the Secretary-General's appeal in that connection. Plans are being made for participation by Argentina in a maritime operation, involving the provision of small boats, equipment and specialized military personnel.

3. The Government of Argentina also participates in other peace-keeping operations (UNTSO, UNIIMOG and UNAVEM), on the understanding that broad participation in such operations helps to ensure impartiality and objectivity in the performance of peace-keeping forces.

4. The Government of Argentina is especially pleased at the successful outcome of the United Nations involvement with the question of Namibia through UNTAG, which has ensured the peaceful transition of that country to independence and enabled it to take its rightful place among the nations of the world.

5. With respect to the actual deployment of United Nations forces in the field, the Government of Argentina takes the view that more frequent rotation of contingents would be useful in the case of long-term operations. Such troop rotation would foster increased participation by developing countries in United Nations forces by reducing the economic burden entailed in maintaining troops and equipment in the field for long periods of time.

6. The discussions at the most recent session of the Special Committee and the comments of Governments suggest that there is support for expanding the use of United Nations operations to deal with other kinds of conflicts and situations, and especially for preventive actions. The possibility of operations to combat illicit drug use and international drug-related terrorism has been mentioned.

The Government of Argentina sees merit in the idea that effective use should be made of the United Nations to prevent, combat and eradicate these scourges of mankind and believes that the matter should be considered in greater detail in order to determine what the prospects are for putting this idea into effect.

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With regard to the specific issue of conflict prevention, it would be desirable for the Secretary-General to be in a position to dispatch technical or fact-finding missions quickly to conflict areas in order to obtain the information needed to evaluate potential crises. The reports of such missions should also be made available to the Special Committee. In connection with such cases the Secretary-General should have available an up-to-date list of experts from Member States in relevant technical fields.

7. Experience shows that the impartiality and objectivity of peace-keeping forces are crucial to the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations in the field. It is therefore vital for the role of peace-keeping forces to keep pace with changes in the situation and to adapt as circumstances may require.

In the light of these considerations and the analysis of information received from the field in each individual case, it may be necessary to modify the composition of contingents, deploy them on a wider scale and consider changes in the terms of reference of the operation.

8. The establishment of an open-ended inter-sessional working group under the Special Committee enjoys the support of the Government of Argentina. Such a working group should study and prepare recommendations and conclusions on specific, well-defined topics for subsequent consideration by the Special Committee.

9. The Government of Argentina views as useful the holding of training seminars in which States with experience in peace-keeping operations can exchange views and share their experiences with others. Such seminars could be held in different regions of the world.

10. Concern has been expressed in the Committee's discussions over the role of the civilian personnel of peace-keeping operations. The Government of Argentina views the participation of civilians as desirable and finds merit in the idea that the above-mentioned inter-sessional working group might undertake a study to identify the rules and procedures applicable to civilian personnel serving in the area of an operation. The study might include an analysis of the basic principles governing the training of military and civilian personnel serving in the theatre of operations proper. This task would be distinct from but complementary to the report requested of the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in resolution 44/49 of 8 December 1989.

11. A sound financial basis is essential to peace-keeping operations. International crises and conflicts today are of such a nature that the Secretary-General's capacity to take speedy action cannot and must not be hampered by the failure of States to provide adequate funding. The developing countries in particular face difficulties in participating in operations when the Organization falls behind in reimbursing them for the costs they incur.

On the subject of financing, the Government of Argentina considers it appropriate for the Special Committee to discuss and study the budgetary aspects of peace-keeping activities and operations, without prejudice to the consideration of these issues by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

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and the Fifth Committee. In line with this approach, the Special Committee should be kept fully informed by the Secretary-General concerning all ongoing operations and any new operations to be undertaken. In the period between the sessions of the Special Committee, the working group referred to above would receive this information, which it would transmit with its comments to the parent body.

12. The availability of the necessary resources is essential for the smooth functioning of peace-keeping operations. Accordingly, there is advantage in obtaining funding from a variety of sources. The fact that primary financial responsibility for peace-keeping operations rests with those States which have special responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security does not mean that the possibility of grants or voluntary contributions should not be explored. Such contributions could be encouraged by a suitable campaign by the Department of Public Information to publicize the needs of the system.

13. The Argentine Republic pledges that as a member of the Special Committee it will help to promote the objectives and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and will continue to support every effort to ease and solve regional problems and conflicts on the basis of the understanding and consent of the parties involved, whether directly or indirectly.
