

priority accorded peacekeeping has varied with different governments. However, peacekeeping operations have not received unanimous support in the United Nations. Four issues in particular have caused concern: the effectiveness of peacekeeping, support for non-UN operations, the financing of UN missions, and the use of force by UN peacekeepers.

Doubts persist over whether peacekeeping helps resolve conflicts or actually prolongs them by removing incentives for belligerents to negotiate. There is also disagreement over the desirability of non-UN-sponsored peacekeeping missions.

The problem of financing relates to the authorization of peacekeeping forces by the General Assembly. The Soviet Union and France have traditionally opposed the General Assembly's claims on this issue, and have refused to pay for peacekeeping operations not established by the Security Council. Many countries which support UNGA-sponsored peacekeeping operations in principle have nevertheless failed to make payments on time. As a result, UN peacekeeping operations have incurred a large deficit since the 1964 mission in the Congo. According to one source, "68 per cent of the overall deficit of the Organization is due to peacekeeping operations."<sup>1</sup> Consequently, troop-contributing countries have generally borne most of the burden for financing UN peacekeeping operations.

Attacks on the United Nations Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) once again raised questions regarding the use of force in self-defence by peacekeeping troops. During August and September 1986, the radical Shiite Moslem group Hizbollah repeatedly attacked the French contingent in UNIFIL, killing four and wounding thirty-three (one Irish peacekeeper was also killed). These attacks prompted calls for a liberal interpretation of restrictions on the use of force in self-defence by UN troops. Others maintained that this

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Association, "Peacekeeping", Briefing Paper, Ottawa, UNA, October 1984, p. 5.