

from the less-developed countries for a disproportionate share of international assistance, are factors which work against the best use of the limited resources, national and international, available for the various programmes. This is why the contributing countries have been seeking to encourage intensive and immediate effort by all participating nations and agencies to achieve maximum co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral programmes of assistance. In the Western view, co-ordination may be just as important in the Development Decade as raising levels of economic and social assistance.

During 1963, the United Nations continued to demonstrate in a variety of practical ways that it could contribute to the maintenance of peace and security, even within the limitations imposed by the cold war and other factors. The military-observer teams in Kashmir and Palestine maintained their constant vigil along cease-fire lines to prevent the sparks of incident from igniting new fires of armed conflict. The United Nations Emergency Force performed its essential peace-keeping role along the frontier of Gaza and Sinai. The combined military and civilian presence in the Congo continued its complicated task of restoring order and security. The United Nations Temporary Executive Authority smoothly discharged its responsibilities in relation to the change of administration in West New Guinea and United Nations plebiscite observers assisted in arrangements for bringing Malaysia into being.

Halfway through the summer, the United Nations assumed new responsibilities in Yemen when, in response to a request from the main parties concerned with the situation there, the United Nations provided a small observation force, of which Canada supplied the air component. Both sides had indicated that they wished to disengage from a situation of growing conflict and had entered into an agreement to do so. The United Nations was asked to assist with an observation group, which has served to prevent further deterioration in the internal situation and in the relations between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic. The operation, which was supposed to last two months, was successively extended into 1964, when the mandate of the United Nations Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM) was altered to meet new requirements. The outcome will depend on the attitude of the governments concerned.

During 1963, the situation in the Congo showed some improvement. This enabled the Secretary-General to reduce substantially the number of United Nations troops in that country. Although it had been hoped that the military side of the United Nations operation could be wound up by the end of 1963, the General Assembly decided, in response to a request from the Congolese Government and in view of the general uncertainty in the country, to continue the military operation during the first half of 1964.