

tical problems posed by the establishment, financing and preparations of peacekeeping operations and observer missions. My delegation can honestly say that the indications we noticed a year ago of the beginnings of a willingness to compromise, of some movement towards more flexible positions, have continued to be evident in the deliberations of the Committee of 33 and in its working group. This fortunate state of affairs can and, I believe, will be maintained if we all remain convinced of each other's genuine desire to make progress on this matter. This is simply a question of confidence in each other's intentions, for, without that state of mutual confidence, we could not hope to achieve anything on the basis of a consensus.

IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVER MISSIONS

It is against this background that my delegation would ask the Special Political Committee to consider the reports now before it from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It will be noted that the Committee's working group has sought and received from the Secretariat some very detailed and useful material relating to a number of observer missions established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes, pursuant to Security Council resolutions. While regrettably this material is still in the process of being put in final form and is therefore not generally available, my delegation believes that the preparation of this material in itself already represents a step forward; and that the Secretariat material will undoubtedly provide an excellent basis for future consultations among members of the working group and of the Committee of 33 when they endeavour to prepare a model of what an observer mission, in all its aspects, should be.

The fact that the Committee of 33, through its working group, has concentrated its attention in recent months on observer missions results from a number of factors and is no reflection, of course, on the contribution which full-scale peacekeeping operations have made in the past. Nevertheless, in terms of the future, my delegation is inclined to the view that a study of observer missions is the most useful thing which we can be doing at this time. As my delegation sees it, the possibility in the relatively near future of further observer missions being established is somewhat greater than that of another large peacekeeping force such as UNFICYP. There are obviously a variety of political and financial considerations, among others, affecting such a determination. What is to be remembered, however, is that in 1965, when the Article 19 crisis was still very much in our minds, it was possible for this organization to set up UNIPOM, a highly useful observer mission with specific terms of reference for the supervision of the withdrawal of troops following the India-Pakistan conflict that year; and that in 1967, when the question of Article 19 was no longer being raised in respect of two major peacekeeping operations in the past, UNTSO was given a new role in the Suez Canal sector and was strengthened in a manner generally acceptable to the Security Council. My

delegation suggests that there may well be other occasions when observer missions, offering a maximum of international presence for a minimum of expense, can make a constructive contribution to international peace and security.

FINANCING STILL A CHALLENGE

It would be wrong, of course, to think that our present preoccupation in the Committee of 33 with observer missions in all their aspects rules out consideration of other problems of peace-keeping. We recall that the original mandate of the Special Committee was a very broad and comprehensive one. The question of how to arrange for the financing of peace-keeping in the future on a basis consistent with the principle of collective responsibility has always loomed very large in our deliberations; and it continues to pose a challenge to all delegations concerned with the ability of the United Nations to engage in peace-keeping activities. The Canadian delegation, for one, is still interested at the appropriate time in co-operating with other delegations in setting forth guide-lines for the apportionment of expenses of peacekeeping operations involving heavy expenditures. The possibility of a special scale for the developing countries in such a situation and the possible establishment of a finance committee to make recommendations on the nature of that scale are both ideas still worthy of consideration. In fact, as far as future financing is concerned, all the basic elements for some sort of understanding exist: they have been discussed many times now in the Committee of 33, and outside it, as well as during the debates of the General Assembly for several years. We should hope that it will not be too long before all the essential elements can be brought together in a proposal on future financing, which could achieve general support.

MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

While speaking of other possibilities to be pursued I cannot fail to recall the interest of my delegation in seeking ways and means to give the Military Staff Committee a more active role. We still think it unfortunate that the expertise represented in that Committee should go unused when there are so many aspects of the question of peace and security which deserve attention. As we have had occasion to mention on other occasions, the Military Staff Committee, although provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter, is not in our view precluded by any specific provision of the Charter from doing work which could be of benefit both in the field of enforcement action, which falls clearly under Chapter VII, as well as in the field of preparations for peacekeeping operations which are of a non-enforcement and voluntary nature....

BALANCING THE BOOK

In concluding this general review of the state of peace-keeping at the Twenty-third Session, I have taken into account our past experience and our hopes for the future. Our hopes are based on the belief that the divisions of the past, particularly among the