

members of the Council. With diverging interests of some of the permanent members in the Middle East conflict, we welcome the restraint shown in the present instance, without accepting this as a precedent to be applied for all time and in all cases.

The Security Council has from the outset emphasized the importance of negotiations between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East. There is a strongly-expressed intention to link peace-keeping with peace-making. To my Government, this link is one of the important elements that went into our decision to participate in the present UNEF. The initial time-limit of six months that has been given to UNEF by the Security Council may not, in practice, be sufficient to enable it to fulfill its mandate. This mandate must be kept under close review in relation to any progress that, one hopes, can be made in the reduction of tensions and movement towards definitive settlement.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations may now be well placed to intensify its efforts to achieve agreed guide-lines for carrying out peacekeeping operations. In its resumed work, it will be timely to review, in the light of recent UNEF experience, the manner in which the Committee is examining the responsibilities to be exercised directly by the Security Council in the prompt establishment, direction and control of peacekeeping operations. A further approach would be to proceed along lines already developed by the Committee in its work this year — namely, to examine in detail respective responsibilities for peacekeeping operations of each of the major UN organs involved. Some fundamental differences on the respective roles these would play, and on the best way of maintaining a satisfactory balance between them, still exist. We shall have to grapple with such differences.

It was in an effort to stimulate new ideas and new approaches towards an accommodation of diverse positions that my delegation tabled its working paper a year ago (A/SPC/152 of October 10, 1972). Our proposals envisaged a system of shared responsibility between the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council and an international headquarters staff operating under the Secretary-General, which would constitute a pool of expertise in peacekeeping planning and the day-to-day conduct of peacekeeping missions. We continue to believe that the ideas contained in these proposals offer a practical solution to the problems of command, control and operation of peacekeeping forces, and a viable bridge between previously-established positions on these complex and difficult issues.