

expressed confidence that it is increasingly capable of coping with a force such as the RUF (Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone).

A key factor that most inhibits rapid deployment of a UN mission is securing a decision from the member states. This situation could be improved if member states committed to the new Rapid Deployment Level of the UN Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS), providing the necessary information to facilitate planning and movement. The response, to date, suggested the need for additional membership at this level. However, within UN circles, the SHIRBRIG is seen as particularly useful and important.

Mr. Craig acknowledged other factors that have been raised by some in the North when indicating a reluctance to help in UN operations: alliance commitments; concerns about mission management; the insufficient ratio of military personnel in DPKO; the vagueness of UN command and control doctrine, and; military concerns about using national command and control, as well as concerns about mission composition and whether there would be sufficient resources, particularly a deterrent capability.

A communication problem stems from the fact that some of the permanent missions in New York and national capitals can have differing views. A channel should be opened to allow for more direct communication between governments and the UN. This channel should provide a forum for member states to constructively criticize UN procedures and operations. Further, this might help to share threat assessments prior to the preparation of a UN mandate.

Summary:

Cliff Bernath, Director Special Projects, Refugees International

Mr. Bernath asserted that refugee camps do not provide a long-term solution for the states or humans involved in a conflict. We must, therefore, address what creates refugees: war. For this reason, the focus for the UN and like-minded organizations should be on peacekeeping, rather than war fighting. He then outlined five essential elements of UN peacekeeping operations.

International Will: Defined as the commitment by governments “to get done what has to be done”, this is the most important element of any peacekeeping operation because it determines the shape of the remaining elements.