



TOWARDS A RAPID REACTION CAPABILITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

military advice to the Secretary-General and the Security Council. One specific initiative which should be pursued, in order to strengthen the place of military advice within the UN system, particularly in the Security Council, is the convening of monthly meetings between the Military Adviser and the military advisers of Member States of the Security Council.

- 10. The Secretary-General should continue the process of strengthening the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, including through loans and secondments from Member States, with the objective of establishing an effective political and military central staff for peace operations; Member States should be encouraged to assist in these efforts.**

The Office of Military Adviser should be strengthened to enable it to execute fully the advisory functions assigned to this office.

In order to provide better and more continuous military advice to members of the Security Council, the Military Adviser should institute a system of informal, regular meetings with the military advisers of all Member States of the Security Council.

In addition to improvements in the UN Secretariat, a series of *ad hoc* measures should be implemented over the short to medium term to enable the UN to call on the resources of Member States on short notice. A "roster system" might usefully be developed to provide a list of prominent individuals with political or diplomatic backgrounds who would be prepared to serve as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in particular situations. A parallel system for military personnel could be of even greater usefulness. A roster system for future Force Commanders, in addition to helping to identify senior officers for peace operations, could also be used to help develop common UN practices and procedures. If groups of potential Force Commanders were brought to the UN for periodic discussion of a variety of operational issues, these informal meetings would help in the advance preparation of missions, particularly those where Force Commanders had to be appointed quickly in order to get a mission on the ground rapidly.

- 11. In conjunction with Member States, the Secretary-General should develop rosters of senior military commanders who might serve as Force Commanders in UN operations and bring these officers to UN headquarters for periodic discussions about contingency planning, mandates, operational guidance, the integration of humanitarian and human rights concerns into peacekeeping operations, and lessons learned from past operations.**

Logistics

One of the most important components of rapid reaction, requiring integration into planning at all stages, is strategic transportation and logistics. The UN has gone a long way in the past two years towards a more professional, systematic approach to logistics, the basis of which is a system of standard regulations and procedures to facilitate rapid reaction. There is now a series of support manuals, either complete or