

## The "Special" Case of Civilians

Ms. Mills speculated that the contributions by governments of civilians for UN peacekeeping would most likely *not* take the form of contributions in kind, except perhaps to a limited extent. She argued that civilians will be obtained from governments on a financial basis akin to that which has been established for the provision of military observers. That is, the cost of salaries and other allowances for such civilians will be covered by the government providing the personnel, while the UN will pay a mission subsistence allowance and possibly the cost of travel to and from the area of operation. Arrangements such as these were used for the provision of some election monitors and for CIVPOL in UNTAG, Ms. Mills said, and are envisaged for the operations in El Salvador and the Western Sahara.

Ms. Mills concluded that the use of civilians in peacekeeping will not resolve the financial difficulties that plague peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the assessment of whether civilian personnel is desirable in general, or for a particular operation, needs to be made after consideration of a number of factors — for example political and security factors — of which the financial aspect is only one.