

countries will accept. The response to our proposal has been most encouraging.

We are convinced that the meeting will serve a valuable purpose. It will enable representatives of many countries to exchange views on the special military and technical problems of peace-keeping. This has never been attempted before. This pooling of our common or shared experience in peace-keeping operations will serve to identify the problems; it may help to indicate how they can be dealt with more efficiently in the future, and it should have the practical benefit of improving the ability of the countries concerned to prepare on a national basis for participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations. In our view these are very worthwhile objectives and we have every confidence that the meeting will be a success.