

tants to move beyond the mere cessation of hostilities to a serious search for a political settlement. Consequently, sceptics charge that United Nations peace-keeping does little more than perpetuate an uneasy status quo.

If peace-keeping is to be truly effective, it must be accompanied by a parallel effort on the political level, especially by the parties most directly concerned, to convert the temporary peace that a peacekeeping force is asked to maintain into something more durable.

Since the initial cease-fire agreement in the fall of 1973, UNEF has fulfilled its task of providing a buffer between the disputants and of helping to produce a period of relative calm in which negotiations could be pursued. The parties concerned took full advantage of the peacekeeping operation; they negotiated and reached a new interim agreement. The significance of this for peace-keeping is that UNEF has not merely perpetuated the status quo; it will now go on to make the new agreement effective and to provide the basis for further steps in peacemaking. In short, UNEF is doing the job for which it is intended -- that is, helping to create the circumstances for a search, at the political level, for a solution to the Middle East problem.

Peace-keeping can only continue, of course, if it has the full support of all member states, including practical support in the form of prompt payment of peacekeeping assessments. Without the necessary financial resources, neither the United Nations nor individual force contributors can be expected for long to carry the responsibilities they have been asked to assume.

Structural reform: political issues and technical problems

I should like to comment on one particular problem affecting the management of the affairs of our evolving organization. Efforts have been made over the years to treat technical problems and political issues separately. The Specialized Agencies and technical conferences have been mainly devoted to their own immediate concerns, while political issues have been discussed primarily in those organs with the competence to deal with such matters, the Security Council and the General Assembly.

We well recognize that, even in technical conferences, member states must take account of political realities, and that in some cases the line of separation between the political and technical cannot always be too rigidly drawn. But we shall do a serious disservice to our system of co-operation within the UN system if we fail to distinguish