

intends to explore how peacekeeping arrangements can be improved and we would hope to consult other traditional participants in this regard. We want to be sure that if and when we are called upon again to take part, and if it is feasible and appropriate for us to do so, we shall be ready to respond.

Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

Another area of our work I should like to mention concerns the peaceful settlement of disputes. Unlike peacekeeping, this subject has, I believe, been neglected too long by this Assembly and I was glad to read the cogent observations of the Secretary-General in the Introduction to his Annual Report. The peaceful settlement of disputes is a vital concept of the Charter and must be an essential technique of modern diplomacy. It is easy to pay lip service to the concept of peaceful settlement, however, and more difficult to suggest how in practice it might be implemented by states. It would be fruitless to expect that, even if there were agreement on the means of implementation, these would always be used. I do not therefore raise this subject on the assumption that good intentions are all that is required. On the contrary, we have a responsibility to take a close look at the procedures we have used in the past, to decide whether they are adequate and if necessary to make recommendations for new procedures. In this respect I welcome the work that has been done by the Government of the Netherlands on the subject of fact-finding. If our discussion of these proposals leads to some constructive result then we shall have made a good start towards the kind of review I have mentioned.

Security Council Meetings of Foreign Ministers

May I also suggest that we take up and implement the proposal made by the Secretary-General for periodic meetings of the Security Council under Article 28 of the Charter and in particular that a meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers be held during the 22nd Session when so many Ministers are here. The Secretary-General has said that he would be prepared to suggest a tentative agenda for such a meeting. I would hope that he will be authorized to do so. We must not let this Session end without having done everything in our power to find solutions to the problems which confront us.

Cyprus

I might appropriately refer in this context to the recent meeting between the heads of government of Greece and Turkey on the question of Cyprus and to the steps which have