

Yet much has already been done to give shape and substance to this new concept of peace keeping - "the adaptation of the military art to the task of maintaining the peace".

I was interested to read a press report the other day that a point of view expressed in the corridors during the conference - certainly not on your agenda - was that United Nations peace-keeping operations may perhaps have been too successful, with temporary United Nations military solutions militating against permanent political solutions. If I may be permitted at this late stage to join an argument which perhaps never really took place, I submit that, as civilized human beings and servants of governments pledged to uphold the Charter, we can never accept the idea that a single death or the degradation and misery of a single family is not too high a price to pay for a so-called permanent political solution. We must not succumb to the temptation to assume that if you don't win, you lose; to see things in terms of black or white, or right or wrong, and to ignore the fact that there can be shades of grey. We must never lose sight of the fact that even if we fail to achieve all that we set out to do, and even if all we accomplish is perhaps to maintain an uneasy status quo or stabilize an uncertain demarcation line, this in itself can often be counted as a genuine contribution to the maintenance of peace.

The basic principles governing the use of United Nations peace-keeping forces were first developed under the guidance of Dag Hammarskjold. They have been patiently and painstakingly refined under Secretary-General U Thant. Experience has shown that it is possible to inject an international armed force into situations of the greatest danger and difficulty provided the force is used for clearly defined and restricted purposes, is fully under control of the organization, acts impartially at all times, and maintains its primary posture of arms for defence.

For those of us who have shouldered responsibility in these operations there has been the problem of how we can best render this service and how we can most effectively respond to United Nations requests for assistance in future peace-keeping operations.

This in essence has been the subject matter of your meeting, the first of its kind to be organized.

Our thought in arranging this conference was to provide an opportunity to pool and share the experience which each of our countries has gained in contributing to successive United Nations operations. Each of us, it was hoped, would have much to learn from the experience of others.

The agenda you have been discussing was prepared primarily with operations of the nature and scale of UNEF, ONUC and UNFICYP in mind. I believe however, that a good deal of the subject matter of your deliberations will prove to be of value also in the conduct of smaller, but no less onerous and dangerous extensions of the UN presence in trouble-spots around the world. The operational and logistic problems that have been faced by UNMOGIP, UNTSO and UNYOM, for example, have, in their own way, been every bit as difficult as for larger operations. I should like to pay tribute to the selfless service and devotion