

keepers are constantly seeking improved methods, drawing on the experience of past operations. That experience is still being developed, for example:

In West New Guinea last year, the Organization had to combine a small military force with a cadre of civilian administrators to smooth the transfer of sovereignty in that territory. This summer in Yemen, an observation group, partly armed, has been required to assist in the disengagement of foreign military elements and the prevention of arms smuggling.

The point I wish to emphasize is that, in spite of the debilitating effect of the long ordeal in the Congo, the United Nations has had to face new responsibilities and to respond quickly and positively. The establishment of peace-keeping operations under the United Nations flag has passed beyond the stage of experiment. It has become an accepted concept and a practical reality in the conduct of international affairs today. The vast majority of United Nations members appear to have concluded that the Organization's capacity to act effectively to maintain peace should be sustained and strengthened.

We are constantly searching for better methods in pursuing our objectives in international peace-keeping. There can be no doubt that the nations of the world must find the means to further strengthen the international capacity for keeping the peace. This great objective is one of the primary tasks of the international community. Indeed mankind's hope for a stable international society evolving peacefully must be closely related to this objective. The notion is firmly implanted in the programmes for general and complete disarmament which are under consideration in the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva. It has been accepted in principle that progress toward disarmament must be accompanied by the development of international machinery for maintaining peace and security.

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