

to international security through the United Nations system. The Canadian role in Cyprus has also played a valuable part in helping avert potential conflict between two NATO allies on the Southern flank. After some years of relative quiescence, UN peacekeeping work has suddenly undergone a huge expansion to respond to the new willingness and encouragement of the major powers to see conflicts resolved under international supervision. Canada has been involved in all of these operations and is relied on for its experience and logistic capabilities, to the point where it has become difficult to consider peacekeeping as a mere "auxiliary" role for the Canadian Armed Forces. This will remain true even if Canada concludes that it cannot take part directly in every future mission, and if some of those missions, like that in Namibia, rely on large proportions of non-military personnel. It remains the case that these functions are a vital part of the international security system, that various kinds of military personnel will remain indispensable for them, and that no country's armed forces have a higher level of experience, capability and acceptability for these tasks than do Canada's. How Canada will now rank these peacekeeping tasks (and the associated ones of international disaster relief) among its security policy priorities will be a key question for the structuring and allocation of our defence resources.