

The number of countries participating in UN peacekeeping operations has remained comparatively limited. Only nineteen states have joined in two or more of the major peacekeeping operations. We are pleased to note that this year there has been a new addition to the "peacekeepers' club" with the decision of the Government of Fiji to contribute troops to UNIFIL. We would encourage other members to give serious consideration in future to participating in peacekeeping operations.

The financing of UN peacekeeping operations remains an area of serious concern to my government. A number of forces are accumulating deficits which, if left unchecked, may lead to serious budgetary problems for the United Nations. The cost of peacekeeping operations should be borne by members in accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 of the Charter. The special scales of assessment as applied to UNEF II, UNDOF and UNIFIL appear broadly acceptable to the membership of the Organization. We would urge all those who have been withholding part or all of their assessments to pay them promptly. A selective approach to financial support for assessed UN activities can only provide an unfortunate precedent which other member states may then apply elsewhere in the UN system.

Canada is equally concerned with the practical implementation of peacekeeping operations. As a long-standing participant in UN peacekeeping operations, we consider that much can be done to improve the capacity of the United Nations and its member states to prepare to send forces into the field. These measures need not wait for the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to agree on guidelines for peacekeeping missions. We are pleased to note that a number of those practical measures are mentioned in the draft resolution which is now before this Committee. The Canadian Delegation has been pleased to join the ranks of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution which has been prepared on the initiative of the members of the European Community. We realize that it is a compromise draft, but we believe that it nonetheless has much to offer. This draft resolution also makes positive references to peacekeeping training which my Delegation supports wholeheartedly. This is the first time that such an element has appeared in a draft resolution of the General Assembly and Canada welcomes this development. We believe that training for peacekeeping would have a beneficial effect on the implementation of any United Nations peacekeeping operation and increase the effectiveness of such a force in the field. The types of training we have in mind would include the following: the "topping up" of national military training programs with special courses on UN peacekeeping operations and observer missions; the sharing of experiences gained in peacekeeping roles, leading eventually to the evolution of internationally-agreed standards and a common training manual for United Nations peacekeeping assignments; prior training for officers designated to senior command or staff positions, under United Nations auspices and/or coordination; and the convening of regional or international seminars on peacekeeping.

Canada remains concerned to see that peacekeeping continues to play its role in the maintenance of international peace and security. We fully intend to maintain our active participation in the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in the coming year and we consider that the adoption of this draft resolution by the General Assembly will encourage the Committee to pursue its efforts with renewed vigour and