

among hostile political factions and ultimately to bring about national stability. For a time, the white jeeps and helicopters of UNOGIL - the squad cars of the United Nations - were the main symbols of established order in the area which was torn by internal dissension bordering on civil war. In the end too, they provided a diplomatic umbrella for the withdrawal of United States Marines which had been landed in Lebanon.

There have been many other examples of this kind of United Nations activity - in Kashmir, in Northern Greece, in Jordan, in West New Guinea. The acid test of United Nations peace-keeping activity, however, has been in the Congo where, in a situation of extreme complexity and danger, a combined military and civilian operation was required not only to maintain internal security - including the protection of lives and property - but to stabilize the basic administration and economy of the country. Trial has been severe and a full assessment of the operation has yet to be made. At least it can be said that the United Nations prevented the incalculable disaster of a Great Power collision in the Congo or a total collapse into tribal anarchy and bloodshed. With its timely intervention in the Congo the United Nations eased the birth pangs of a new nation which could one day become one of the most important in all of Africa.

The long strain of the Congo crisis, however, has severely challenged the U.N. It has drained much of the energy and initiative of the U.N. It has raised doubts about the continuing role of the U.N. in the field of peace and security. It has sparked a sharp Soviet attack on the Secretariat and it has helped to produce a most serious financial crisis. These challenges still persist. They have yet to be fully mastered.

The need for international peace keeping machinery remains. New and different demands are being made on the U.N. constantly. In responding to these demands the U.N. peace