

missions. The parties to the ceasefire are expected to cooperate with the forces, providing, where need be, logistics, including communication and transportation facilities, supply and billeting. Duties of the forces may include observation, patrolling the ceasefire line, reporting infractions and interpositioning themselves between the parties to prevent a renewal of hostilities. Peacekeeping operations are directed by the Secretary-General, usually through the Under-Secretary General for Special Political Affairs. The force Commander is appointed by the Secretary-General. Direction is handled in consultation with the Security Council.

It is commonly agreed that peacekeeping forces must be flexible. The role they play in each operation is often improvisational. Standard Operating Procedures allow for the possibility that members of the forces, even at a low level, may be called upon to negotiate with the parties to the conflict. In doing so, they must remain strictly neutral, offering suggestions and advice or responding objectively to courses of action taken by the parties to the conflict.

2.4 Shortcomings and Problems with the Traditional Approach

Peacekeeping as an institution is a venerable one. If it suffers some shortcomings, they are related to what is often expected of peacekeeping rather than what that institution promises to deliver. It is said that the primary problem with peacekeeping operations is that they tend to perpetuate the state of conflict.²⁶ Two examples used to illustrate this point are the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), still in place after 25 years, and the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I), which remained in the Middle East from 1956 until 1967, when war broke out. In fact, of all the peacekeeping operations carried out under UN auspices since 1948, only two have ended with a resolution of the conflict.²⁷

²⁶ Mircea Malitza, "The Improvement of Effectiveness of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations," in: The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, *supra* note 22, p. 238.

²⁷ Henry Wiseman, "Peacekeeping in the International Political Context: Historical Analysis and Future Directions," Paper presented to the Joint NUPI-IPA Workshop on: "The UN and Peacekeeping: Results, Limitations and Prospects -- The Lessons of 40 Years