

right to contribute a special knowledge of peacekeeping to our discussions. My Government regrets therefore that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was not able to meet this summer despite the encouraging signs of progress in its work which were beginning to appear some months ago. Recent developments in the Middle East and elsewhere strengthen our belief that this Organization has an important task to perform in the maintenance of peace and security.

Some may feel that the issues are so difficult and the disagreements so profound that there is little point in the Special Committee continuing to meet. We do not take this view. We would have been surprised if progress were not to be slow. The questions under study are amongst those which challenge the most deeply held beliefs of member states about the nature and purposes of the United Nations. We cannot afford the luxury of cynicism. Moreover, at the last series of meetings of the Committee concrete proposals were made which deserve to be explored further. I have in mind particularly proposals relating to a special scale for the financing of peacekeeping operations and proposals for the advance planning and co-ordination of logistical and other arrangements for peacekeeping. I have in mind, too, proposals which have been made relating to the Military Staff Committee and the role it might play in this whole area.

Our reasons for holding these views have been confirmed by the observations which the Secretary-General has made in his Final Report on the United Nations Emergency Force in which he summarizes clearly and effectively the essential nature of peacekeeping forces in general. I have noted his statement, for example, that "in these operations none of the planning and preparation which are expected of normal military procedures can be counted upon" and his subsequent commentary on the difficulties this creates for the United Nations. I would suggest it is time, 11 years after the decision to organize the first peacekeeping force, that we should be able to count upon at least some of the normal planning procedures which each of us would take for granted in our own countries. Training should be standardized and equipment should be available when needed, to mention only two items.

It takes no foresight on my part to predict that the United Nations will be called upon again to supply peacekeeping forces or observer groups in crisis situations. That is the reason we believe forward planning is necessary. Even if continuing disagreement here prevents the United Nations from doing this planning my Government