

to duty of the soldiers and civilians who, over the years, have cheerfully accepted this thankless duty in the interest of peace.

I hope you will conclude your discussions tomorrow with the feeling that this series of informal meetings in an atmosphere that permits a frank and honest exchange of views has been worthwhile. Your agenda was a very heavy one. If this meeting has helped to stimulate and provoke thinking about these important practical problems it will have served its purpose.

The Secretary-General has pointed out that the United Nations must maintain and develop its active role in the keeping the pace. There is, in his view, no acceptable alternative method of keeping peace in the world to the steady and sound development of the peace-keeping functions of the United Nations. To quote U Thant:

"However improvised and fumbling the United Nations approach may be, we have to develop it to deal with the sudden antagonisms and dangers of our world, until we can evolve more permanent institutions...The pioneering co-operative efforts made by the United Nations to keep the peace ... constitute vital steps toward a more mature, more acceptable and more balanced world order. We must have the confidence and the means to sustain them and the determination to develop out of them a reliable and workable system for the future".

This meeting is a step in that direction. It has shown the value of consultation and co-operation among governments with a common interest in improving the peace-keeping machinery of the United Nations.

This meeting has also shown that it is entirely possible to discuss the practical side of United Nations peace keeping without diverging into the field of political controversy.

It was held with the understanding that there would be no commitment as regards future developments. The reason for this was a simple and obvious one - it is not for a conference such as this to take decisions on matters which can only be definitively resolved within the strict constitutional framework of the United Nations.

But this meeting has, I am sure, created a more understanding climate for future discussions of these problems. What is important is that, after many years of improvisation, there is an opportunity to make some progress on the practical side. It is a door to a more rational and systematic method of organizing, supplying and directing these operations.

On balance, I trust you will feel that this meeting helped to identify the problems and to make some progress towards their solution.