

Yet, as some have suggested, a "new era" in peacekeeping is beginning, then these objections may soon be called into question.

Alternatively, there has been talk of creation by the UN of a separate peacekeeping organization, a "Green Helmet" force, which could respond to natural disasters. If involving the Blue Helmets in a humanitarian ceasefire is too complicated, then perhaps these Green Helmets could be geared toward attending to this kind of situation. Germany and Japan, who are prohibited from providing military components to peacekeeping operations, but who are nevertheless eager to get involved in peacekeeping, might be suitable candidates to spearhead a Green Helmet force.¹⁰⁶

Wiseman is a strong proponent of a new type of peacekeeping endeavour, such as a humanitarian support operation. He envisions that some day the UN might be used as a "bully pulpit", so that if either a government or insurgent force was to deny humanitarian assistance to any civilian group, then a UN force could be mobilized to ensure delivery of such assistance.¹⁰⁷

4.3 Humanitarian Assistance During a Peacekeeping Operation

The notion that a UN peacekeeping force could take an active part in a humanitarian ceasefire may seem fanciful to some. Less heretical is the notion that the presence of a peacekeeping force to monitor a traditional ceasefire also provides the opportunity for the delivery of humanitarian aid. A concerted effort to provide such assistance with the full participation of the peacekeeping forces in place, may not only contribute to the success of the peacekeeping operation, but may also further the peacemaking effort.

¹⁰⁶ The possibilities for a Green Helmet force were raised during the author's discussion with Lt-Col. George Boulanger, Head of Military Training and Peacekeeping Section, Department of External Affairs and International Trade, Canada.

¹⁰⁷ Henry Wiseman (rapporteur), "Conclusions by the Chairman," The International Workshop on Humanitarian Emergencies and Conflict Resolution: Consultations on Africa, 7-9 March 1989, Harare, Zimbabwe, p. 6.