

patrolling, and, in the case of the peacekeeping force, interpositioning themselves between belligerents to prevent an outbreak of fighting; 4) **Observation:** Observers are mainly concerned with the supervision of truce and ceasefire agreements and armistice lines. They usually consist of a static network of observation posts, reporting to headquarters any incidents which might preface a renewal of fighting.

2.3 Principles and Procedures of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

There is no provision for peacekeeping forces in the Charter of the United Nations. Appropriately, they have been described as a purely empirical creation born of necessity.²⁴ The first peacekeeping force was created and deployed at the behest of Lester B. Pearson in response to the Suez Crisis of 1956. Since that time there have been more than fifteen UN peacekeeping or observer operations. It has been through this practical application that the principles and procedures, and indeed the purpose and role, of peacekeeping forces have been developed.

Each operation must have a mandate. This is devised by the Security Council, which is the sole authority under which the force can operate.²⁵ The peacekeeping force must be impartial, it must not interfere in the internal affairs of the host country and must not favour one side against another. Members of the force are strictly forbidden to use their weapons save in self-defence. Peace is never "enforced" but "secured." A peacekeeping force is never imposed upon the belligerents but is subject to the consent of the party on whose territory it is deployed. Peacekeeping contingents and observer missions are multinational and are constituted on a purely voluntary basis. The participation of any one particular country is subject to the veto of the host parties or governments. The ideal is broad geographical representation including contingents from East, West and the Third World. Permanent members of the Security Council are excluded from peacekeeping

²⁴ *The Blue Helmets: A Review of United Nations Peace-keeping*, New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 1985, p. 3.

²⁵ Normally, a peacekeeping operation is established by the Security Council. The General Assembly, however, can also establish a peacekeeping force and has done so twice in the past.