



## CHAPTER SEVEN

### TOWARDS A RAPID-REACTION CAPABILITY:

#### CONCLUSIONS

*"The end of the Cold War has liberated the UN Security Council from the superpower confrontation, has raised public expectations and has opened up new opportunities for the UN with respect to international peace and security. At the same time it has presented the UN with new and unprecedented challenges, including a wave of humanitarian and peacekeeping emergencies, for which it is ill-equipped.... If the UN is to live up to its potential, more will have to be done to give it the effective structures, the political guidance and the resources it now lacks."*

*Canada's Foreign Policy: Principles and Priorities for the Future, Report of the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy, 1994.*

#### Conclusions

This study addresses reforms which need to be made if the UN is to be able to respond rapidly to urgent situations. Some of its recommendations address changes in the UN structure and institutional reforms in the Organization. These recommendations aim at practical, achievable objectives: among other things, the creation of more formal consultative mechanisms for troop-contributing nations, the institution of informal ways of enhancing military advice within the UN, especially to the Security Council, and the creation of a new peacekeeping sub-committee of the ACABQ. Each of these could be achieved with minimal resource implications to the Organization and without reform of the Charter.

With respect to the structure of the UN Secretariat, our recommendations build on current directions, calling for enhancement of key functions, such as analysis, contingency planning, training assistance and standby arrangements. For the most part, these initiatives, and others in which the Secretariat would be expected to play a key role, could be implemented within the framework of a policy of "zero growth" in the UN budget, with resource implications handled by way of reallocations from activities of lesser priority. The key initiative for the Secretariat — the creation of a new operational-level headquarters as one element of a vanguard concept for rapid deployment — might well be created, staffed and funded, at least initially, by UN Member States with already established records in the area of peace operations. Over time, as the UN's financial crisis is overcome, it would most appropriately be funded out of the regular budget of the UN or out of a unified peacekeeping budget.

The report calls for a more effective partnership between the UN and regional organizations in many aspects of peace operations. Regional organizations have their own recognized strengths, although they vary enormously in structure, membership, financial viability and programs. There is much that regional organizations can do, especially in the area of preventive diplomacy, that can help the UN in its conflict-management strategies. Recent initiatives by the UK and France on peacekeeping training in Africa are models in this respect. On the other hand, there are some areas

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