

nized for some time that the current CD membership, and possibly the CD itself, no longer reflect the changing international security environment. We are in favour of broadening CD membership to admit those states that have formally applied.

We also hope that the CD can energize movement on the issue of transparency in armaments. We hope that the current session of the CD will provide productive debate on this issue as well as with respect to radiological weapons and outer space.

The Secretary-General suggested in his report that the CD take on the role of a permanent review and supervisory body for some existing multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements. Canada has reservations about the notion of having the CD take on such a role. The focus of the CD should not be diverted away from being the sole body in the United Nations with the authority to negotiate global arms control agreements.

Conclusion

The three multilateral ACD bodies have distinct, yet complementary and inter-related, functions. In Canada's view, the resumed session [of the First Committee, March 8 to 12] therefore offers a unique opportunity to:

- (1) reaffirm the distinctive roles of each of the three multilateral ACD bodies and of the Office for Disarmament Affairs as the "focal point" for multilateral ACD activity;
- (2) provide additional impetus to the ongoing work of rationalization of the three ACD bodies; and
- (3) provide for focused consideration of practical ways to enhance the effective interaction of these bodies...

We agree with the Secretary-General's assertion that...the process of conflict resolution must be supported by concrete arms control and disarmament measures.

Beyond this, is the need to liberate the term "arms control and disarmament" from its Cold War preoccupation with numbers of weapons. As important as this is, arms control and disarmament is now seen both to embrace and to constitute part of a far broader process of confidence-building, of transparency, of accountability and, most importantly, of promoting less reliance on weapons and more reliance on genuinely cooperative mechanisms for creating and enhancing international peace and security. ■

Focus: On Peacekeeping

Focus is written primarily for secondary school students.

The end of the Cold War has led to an increase in demand for international peacekeepers. The number of United Nations peacekeeping operations launched in the last four years is as great as the total number launched in the previous 40. Almost every evening, television screens are filled with pictures of peacekeepers at work in Yugoslavia, Cambodia or elsewhere. This recent recognition of the importance of peacekeeping is no surprise to Canadians, who have been strong supporters of the concept since its beginning. But the nature of peacekeeping is changing, raising new questions for Canada and the international community.

The Origins of Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is not mentioned in the UN Charter. The founders of the UN thought that maintaining international peace and security would be the task of the great powers in the Security Council, using their military forces as well as those of other UN members. However, this arrangement depended on agreement among the great powers, which soon became impossible because of East-West tension.

Between 1945 and 1956, the UN created a number of truce supervisory groups, including in the Middle East and in Kashmir, on which Canadians served. The first UN peacekeeping force was established in November 1956 during the Suez crisis. When fighting broke out between Israel, Britain and France on the one side and Egypt on the other, the Security Council was deadlocked. Canada's External Affairs Minister, Lester Pearson, proposed the formation of a UN force to separate the fighting parties and maintain peace in the area until a political settlement could be reached. The General Assembly approved his suggestion and the UN Secretary-General appointed a Canadian, Major-General E.L.M. Burns, to head the new UN Emergency Force (UNEF).

Canada contributed to UNEF until the force was removed at Egypt's request in 1967. Mr. Pearson, who later became Canada's prime minister, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his role in the Suez crisis.

Traditional Peacekeeping

Since the birth of UNEF, peacekeeping has been used to reduce tensions in more than 20 conflicts around the globe. It has played a particularly important role in the Middle East, the Belgian Congo (now Zaire) and Cyprus. In general, a peacekeeping operation is characterized by the following:

- a multinational force, under UN command, loaned by countries not involved in the dispute and thus seen as impartial. Typical providers of peacekeeping forces include Australia, Austria, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Poland and Finland;
- advance consent of all the fighting parties. It may seem surprising that hostile countries and factions would ask for or agree to UN intervention. In practice, though, peacekeeping has often provided parties with a face-saving alternative to continued fighting;
- arrival of peacekeepers only *after* a ceasefire has been achieved; and
- no use of force, except in self-defence. UN peacekeeping forces are only lightly armed. They are allowed to use force only if they are attacked or if armed persons try to stop them from carrying out their orders.

When a UN Member State, a group of states or the Secretary-General proposes establishment of a peacekeeping operation, three basic conditions must be met. First, the parties to the conflict must be agreeable to the idea. Second, the proposal must enjoy broad international support; specifically, it must be adopted by the Security Council. This means that at least nine of the 15 Security Council members must vote in favour of the proposal, and that none of the five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the UK and the US) vote against it. Third, Member States must be ready to volunteer the troops needed.

Once these conditions are met, the Secretary-General makes the arrangements to establish the force. This involves choosing a force commander and asking Member States to provide troops, supplies and equipment, transportation and logistical support. The Security Council must approve these arrangements.

Soldiers involved in a UN peacekeep-