

problems involved in United Nations operations with a view to strengthening the capability of the participating governments to serve and support the United Nations.

The wider political issues surrounding the authorization, control and financing of United Nations operations are to be discussed at the United Nations. This meeting will not deal with how future peace-keeping operations are established or how they are financed. Nor will it attempt to set up a permanent United Nations force or to form co-ordinated stand-by arrangements.

We believe that the exchange of views will be fruitful and should prove of great value to the participating governments. No formal steps will be taken to draw conclusions and it will be for participating governments to decide what use to make of the information gained at the meeting.

We have already had informal assurances from the following governments that they are prepared to participate: Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Tunisia and the United Arab Republic. Formal invitations have been extended to these and other governments and we are hopeful that a number of other countries will accept. The response has been most encouraging.

I have instructed our Permanent Representative at the United Nations to transmit the text of this statement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations this afternoon.