

Let me begin by referring to a number of peace keeping operations of the United Nations in which military and civilian personnel have been working in a manner not unlike that of a metropolitan policeman in Ontario.

The main trend in United Nations peace keeping methods has been to devise various forms of United Nations presence, designed usually to meet specific political circumstances. Their principal purpose has been to serve as an international witness in areas of disturbance and to exert a calming influence.

Quite early in United Nations history, the Organization began to employ military observer groups in situations of potential danger. Perhaps the most notable example has been the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine. For well over ten years now, unarmed military observers have helped immeasurably to keep the uneasy peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Specifically, the observers are expected to ensure that the separate Armistice Agreement between Israel and the Arab states is being carried out.

The observers respond to complaints about incidents along the armistice demarcation lines. They conduct investigations and submit reports to the Mixed Armistice Commissions. In other words, while they do not patrol a regular beat, they do hasten to reply to emergency calls.

This operation has required of the individual observers the highest degree of courage, tact and patience. While they have not always succeeded in preventing bloodshed and violence - and on occasion some have made the supreme sacrifice - for the most part they have provided a thin protective shield between the spark of incident and the flame of new fighting.

Perhaps the most spectacular example of United Nations peace-keeping activity has been the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East. This international agency, organized and equipped as an armed