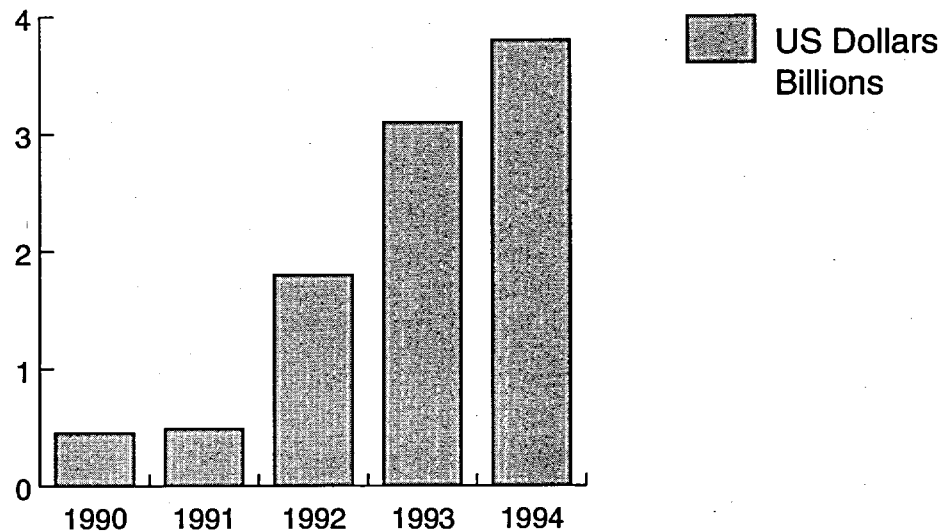




United Nations Field Operations Growth of Total Field Mission Budgets 1990-1994



Source: DPKO, 1994

Improved institutions and mechanisms can nevertheless encourage Security Council members and other Member States to address a desperate situation with greater confidence. If the UN possessed the capacity to deal effectively with problems on the ground, the Security Council might be less disposed to delay its consideration of pressing questions of international peace and security. Such a capacity would instill confidence among UN Member States that a well-honed instrument, going beyond the limitations of traditional peacekeeping, was available if needed.

Our central concern is improving the UN's capacity to respond to crisis, while respecting the right of the Security Council, possessed of this new capability, to decide the circumstances under which the UN will react to crisis situations

Yet such an enhanced capability to respond to crises in no way ties the hands of the Security Council. The decision to deploy or not to deploy a UN peace operation would remain the Council's prerogative. Some commentators have cautioned that any new capability would have to be used very prudently, possibly only in rare circumstances, recognizing that the injection of outside military force is not always helpful in delicate disputes. Others have a contrary perspective, namely, that the Security Council should dare to be bold in a new era in which UN intervention, even in intra-state disputes, is no longer abnormal. The question of deployment or non-deployment in specific situations is beyond the scope of the present study. Our central concern is improving the UN's capacity to respond to crisis, while respecting the right of the Security Council, possessed of this new capability, to decide the circumstances under which the UN will react to crisis situations.

A guiding metaphor of this study is that of an ailing body politic and the need to search for remedies. In certain parts of the world, the society or nation-state is so afflicted that outside intervention is the only hope. In the body's case, this would mean active treatment by recognized medical authorities. Early on, before the body rebels absolutely, warning signals are sent out — perhaps a fever or another symptom. Doctors are consulted and decide whether and what treatment should be pursued. They are not always good diagnosticians, nor do they always possess the medicines