

It takes no foresight on my part to predict that the United Nations will be called upon again to supply peacekeeping forces or observer groups in crisis situations. Peace-keeping in this organization is not dead because of incidents that occurred within the past few months. It will continue to be a very necessary and useful function for this organization. And that is the reason why we believe forward planning is necessary. Even if continuing disagreement here prevents the United Nations from doing this planning, my Government intends to explore how peacekeeping arrangements can be improved and we should hope to consult other traditional participants in that regard. We want to be sure that, if and when we are called upon to take part, and if it is feasible and appropriate to do so, we shall be ready to respond.

#### Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

Unlike peace-keeping, the peaceful settlement of disputes has been neglected too long by us. I was glad, therefore, to read the cogent observations of the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report. The peaceful settlement of disputes is a vital concept of the Charter of this organization; it must be an essential technique of modern diplomacy. It is easy to pay lip service, of course, to the concept of peaceful settlement, and more difficult to suggest how in practice it might be implemented. It would be fruitless to expect that, even if there were agreement on the means of implementation, these would always be used. And so I do not raise this subject on the assumption that good intentions are all that we require.

We have a responsibility, on the contrary, to take a close look at the procedures we have used in the past to decide whether they are adequate and, if necessary, to make recommendations for new procedures. In this regard, I welcome the work that has been done by the Government of The Netherlands on the subject of fact-finding. If our discussion of these proposals leads to some constructive result, then we shall have made a good start towards the kind of review I have mentioned.

#### Security Council Meetings of Foreign Ministers

May I also suggest that we take up and implement the proposal made by the Secretary-General for periodic meetings of the Security Council under Article 28 of the Charter and, in particular, that a meeting at the level of foreign ministers be held during the twenty-second session, when so many ministers are here? The Secretary-General has said that he would be prepared to suggest a tentative agenda for such a meeting. I should hope that he would be authorized to do so, and I agree that there must be careful preparations for such a meeting. I believe that we must not let this session end without having done everything in our power to find solutions to the problems that divide us, that concern our peoples and that now test the acceptance of this organization in many countries of the world.

#### Cyprus

I might appropriately refer in this context to the recent meeting between the Heads of Government of Greece and Turkey on the question of Cyprus and to the steps which have been taken on the island to facilitate a return to