

4 PREPARATORY ACTIVITY

The logical extension of contingency planning is logistical and other preparatory activity to prepare for or initiate various "first stages" of peace-keeping operation. Political and financial authority to actually mount an operation does and should remain at the political level, but are there steps to be taken at the strategic and possibly operational level?, eg. TCN identification, stockpiling of equipment, preparation of maps, etc. "It is important that as much preparatory work as possible commence before the formal mandate of a mission is adopted."¹¹ This is particularly appropriate and politically feasible for preparatory actions that occur outside of the target country.

No action has been taken on the internal recommendation of March 1994 that "DPKO should undertake a study of the political issues involved in preparatory activity prior to the adoption of a mandate for a peace-keeping mission."¹² Issues to be studied would include devising a method to consult with UN or outside bodies negotiating agreements such as cease-fires that could call for a UN field operation. Then, those bodies could examine methods of mandating a preparatory UN field presence to initiate planning, as well as an advance canvassing of potential TCNs.

That recommendation has not been implemented. Also, there is no indication that DPKO or other parts of the UN have had the time to investigate many of the other preparatory activities that might feasibly take place to facilitate rapid peace-keeping reaction. For example, the MPS's Conceptual Planning Unit should be alerted through early warnings by other parts of the UN such as elsewhere in DPKO, from DHA, DPA or UN agencies, or from those outside of the UN. It would then start to identify those parts of their mission specific contingency plans that could be implemented or initiated without compromising the Security Council's prerogative of deciding whether and when a particular mission would take place.

Such a task by the Conceptual Planning Unit is very delicate, and would involve them in encouraging other parts of DPKO or the UN system at large to initiate preparations in reasonable anticipation of a Security Council decision. They would have to avoid any perception of the Secretariat unilaterally mounting a mission without first having received SC authorization.

As another example, the Conceptual Planning Unit should alert the Standby Arrangements Unit alongside

¹¹ A/49/136, para 38 2 May 1994 COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS, **Report of the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations**

¹² See p.28, E/AC.51/1994/3 14 March 1994 PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: EVALUATION, **Progress report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping: start-up phase, Report of the Secretary-General**