

One participant described the project of an Arctic Council, bringing together eight Arctic countries. Such a council could be expected to further the discussion of strategic issues, particularly as these relate to the North.

Canadian Commitment

There is no doubt that Canadians want our future contributions to peacekeeping to be as significant as those of the past. It was asked whether Canada should continue to "cover the waterfront" of peacekeeping or whether it should concentrate in the areas where Canada has the most expertise.

In the past, Canada's contribution to peacekeeping has consisted mainly of personnel and financing. In the current climate of continuing reductions in the strength of the Canadian Armed Forces and with the declining budget, it is probable that more emphasis will be placed on peacekeeping expertise and on the non-military activities of humanitarian assistance, election supervision and policing.

The best peacekeepers are those who have been trained to a general-purpose combat capability level. Peacekeeping requires professionals. A good deal of confidence was expressed in the professionalism of Canadian troops, but participants were reminded that peacekeeping requires more than military skills. At times, it requires knowing how to harness "the power of CNN." There were also participants who pointed to the risk of Canadian soldiers getting involved in others' internal conflicts. For the most part, however, those attending the seminar shared the view that participation in peacekeeping will continue to be in Canada's best interests.

Capacity of the United Nations

Many felt that the United Nations is in a period of flux as it reorganizes to deal with the rapid extension of peacekeeping requirements. It will need to develop methods and procedures to enable it to command and control effectively the over 50,000 military and civilian personnel currently employed on peacekeeping operations. Although there is a strong case against the United Nations possessing its own standing military force, there are still some who believe this is desirable. Others hold that what is needed is a commitment by governments to maintain certain forces on a standby basis, to be committed to the United Nations in accordance with national interests.

Role of Major Powers

In his opening remarks, Professor Albert Legault of Laval University said the United Nations can serve as an interface between the small and the very powerful. The question was nevertheless raised as to whether one country or a very small group of countries should be able, by means of offering or withholding personnel, goods and/or services, to determine the effectiveness of the organization in meeting its challenges. There was concern that repeated exercise of such perceived powers might have a negative impact on the international legitimacy of the United Nations.

It was contended on the one hand that the United States is the only country in the world capable of mounting the operations required by the extended definition of peacekeeping. On the other hand, participants were reminded that the US has no intention of providing mercenaries for the world.

Canada Contributes to Mozambique Operation

On February 12, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and Defence Minister Kim Campbell announced that in response to a request from the UN Secretary-General, Canada will contribute up to 15 military observers to the UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

ONUMOZ will deploy up to 7,500 troops, police and civilians to implement the peace agreement signed by the Mozambique government and the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) last October, ending 16 years of civil war. Four key elements in implementing the peace agreement are: troop demobilization and reintegration into civilian life; refugee repatriation; humanitarian assistance for displaced victims of war and drought; and preparations for national elections.

Other peacekeeping developments since the last issue of the *Bulletin* are listed below.



Armoured personnel carriers driven by Canadians with the UN Protection Force pass through the checkpoint at "B" company headquarters in Dragovic, Croatia. The Canadians were in a staging area in Croatia prior to moving south into Bosnia.

Canadian Forces photo by Sergeant Margaret Reid

Ex-Yugoslavia

The 2nd Canadian Battalion with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has been deployed from Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina to assist in the distribution of humanitarian relief supplies. The company of the 2nd Battalion that had been assigned to Macedonia has rejoined the battalion in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Iraq-Kuwait

Twenty-nine Canadian engineers have come home from the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM). Currently there are four Canadian military observers and one officer stationed at UNIKOM headquarters.

Angola

Due to the renewal of the Angolan civil war, the Secretary-General scaled the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) down to approximately 30 people. Only one Canadian observer is still assigned to UNAVEM.