

has had a particular opportunity to assess the extent to which progress can now be made, without prejudice to constitutional positions, in dealing with many practical problems posed by the establishment, financing and preparation of peacekeeping operations and observer missions. My delegation can honestly say that the indications we noticed a year ago of the beginnings of a willingness to compromise, of some movement towards more flexible positions, have continued to be evident in the deliberations of the Committee of 33 and in its working group. This fortunate state of affairs can and, I believe, will be maintained if we all remain convinced of each other's genuine desire to make progress on this matter. This is simply a question of confidence in each other's intentions, for without that state of mutual confidence we could not hope to achieve anything on the basis of a consensus.

It is against this background that my delegation would ask the Special Political Committee to consider the reports now before it from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It will be noted that the Committee's working group has sought and received from the Secretariat some very detailed and useful material relating to a number of observer missions established or authorized by the Security Council for observation purposes, pursuant to Security Council resolutions. While, regrettably, this material is still in the process of being put in final form and is therefore not generally available, my delegation believes that the preparation of this material in itself already represents a step forward; and that the Secretariat material will undoubtedly provide an excellent basis for future consultations among members of the working group and of the Committee of 33 when they endeavour to prepare a model of what an observer mission, in all its aspects, should be.

Value of Observer Teams

The fact that the Committee of 33, through its working group, has concentrated its attention in recent months on observer missions results from a number of factors and is no reflection, of course, on the contribution which full-scale peacekeeping operations have made in the past. Nevertheless, in terms of the future, my delegation is inclined to the view that a study of observer missions is the most useful thing which we can be doing at this time. As my delegation sees it, the possibility in the relatively near future of further observer missions being established is somewhat greater than that of another large peacekeeping force, such as UNFICYP. There are obviously a variety of political and financial considerations, among others, affecting such a determination. What is to be remembered, however, is that in 1965, when the Article 19 crisis was still very much in our minds, it was possible for this organization to set up UNIPOM, a highly useful observer mission with specific terms of reference for the supervision of the withdrawal of troops following the India-Pakistan conflict that year; and that, in 1967, when the question of Article 19 was no longer being raised in respect of two major peacekeeping operations in the past, UNTSO was given