

armistice agreement is never imposed by the Security Council. It is a consensual contract, usually of unlimited duration. Moreover, it implies a commitment to, or formal acceptance of, an eventual peace settlement, but it does not end the legal state of war.

This brings us to the fourth and final step on the road to peace, a step which Bailey does not discuss but which he implies. This step, which we will call an accord, involves a sincere political negotiation leading to a compromise. Ideally, this compromise would resolve the issues in dispute to the mutual satisfaction of the interested parties, resulting in an enduring peace.

## 2.2 United Nations Peacekeeping Forces: Purpose and Role

The purpose of peacekeeping forces has traditionally been to insert themselves between belligerents during the ceasefire phase of the peace process. They are the instrument by which the UN intervenes to supervise and maintain the ceasefire in order to buy time for negotiation and for mediation to take place. Beyond this, as Indar Jit Rikhye indicates, the term 'peacekeeping' has still not been formally defined.<sup>19</sup> One proximate definition is provided by the International Peace Academy. It states that peacekeeping is:

the prevention, containment, moderation and termination of hostilities between or within states, through the medium of a peaceful third party intervention organized and directed internationally, using multinational forces of soldiers, police and civilians to restore and maintain peace.<sup>20</sup>

More succinctly, Wiseman says that peacekeeping is the use of military personnel to monitor and supervise a ceasefire between belligerents. The expectation, he concludes, is that once a ceasefire is assured, the political climate will become more conducive to diplomatic negotiation and possible settlement through direct diplomacy by the Secretary-

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<sup>19</sup> Indar Jit Rikhye, *The Theory and Practice of Peacekeeping*, London: C. Hurst and Company, 1984, p. 1.

<sup>20</sup> International Peace Academy, *Peacekeeper's Handbook*, New York: Pergamon Press, 1984, p. 22.