

⁷³ As Danish officials informed the Friends Group, "the conceptual work done so far on the establishment of a multinational UN [SHIRBRIG] carries a relevance far beyond the group of nations participating in the present project. The concept could inspire other groups of nations to take a similar initiative."

⁷⁴ Cited in Arslan Malak, "The beginnings of a UN army?", *Behind the Headlines*, Summer 1999, pp. 14-17.

⁷⁵ UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, cited in UN Press Release, SG/SM/6310, September 2, 1997, p.2.

⁷⁶ This option was proposed in a former context by Peter Langille, Maxime Faille, Carlton Hughes and James Hammond, "A Preliminary Blueprint of Long-term Options for Enhancing a UN Rapid Reaction Capability, in David Cox and Albert Legault, (eds.), *UN Rapid Reaction Capabilities: Requirements and Prospects*, (Cornwallis: The Canadian Peacekeeping Press, 1995), pp. 179-190.

⁷⁷ Notably, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations also urged the Secretary-General to develop a rapidly deployable headquarters team in their spring 1995 report. This request was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in Resolution 50/30(1995). The proposal for such a headquarters was also at the forefront of the priorities of the Friends of Rapid Deployment. It was reported that the Friends Group also submitted a similar proposal to the Secretary-General. See "Rapid-reaction headquarters possible by fall: Canadian led proposal calls for small group to assess world crises", *Ottawa Citizen*, July 23, 1996.

⁷⁸ See Major-General Frank Van Kappen, Military Advisor to the Secretary-General, "Presentation on the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters (RDMHQ)", to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, 24 October 1996. Also cited in "Peacekeeping Operations Committee - 5 - Press Release PK/144 140th Meeting, 24 October 1996.

⁷⁹ Once operational, the UNRDMHQ should begin to fill the gap in DPKO's initial management of UN operations. In the past, there was a risk of serious operational difficulties and complications arising when military contingents and other components arrived in the mission area to operate over extended periods without a proper mission headquarters.

⁸⁰ Major-General Frank Van Kappen, "Presentation on the RDMHQ", October 24, 1996, pp. 5-7.

⁸¹ *Ibid*, pp. 4-5.

⁸² Friends of Rapid Deployment, Technical Working Group Paper, "A Rapidly Deployable Headquarters: Roles, Functions and Implementation", March 26, 1996. As this paper noted, "this headquarters would be multinational, drawing its personnel widely from contributing member states of all regions. It would also be multidimensional, reflecting the requirements of the more complex operations of the 1990s, with a substantive civilian staff of diverse experience in the areas of civilian police, humanitarian assistance, human rights, and legal affairs. This headquarters would be a 'first-in, first-out' operation, moving into an area rapidly but capable of being removed equally quickly. It should be capable of directing at least 5,000 personnel, possibly more if it is augmented at the time of deployment. This staff, seconded or loaned by Member States to the UN Secretariat, could be deployed into a theatre of operations under the authority of the Security Council and at the direction of the Secretary-General but without further authorisation at the national level."

⁸³ "At the UN, A Proposal to Speed Aid During Crises", *New York Times*, July 21, 1996. Cited in, Patrick A. McCarthy, "Towards an Independent United Nations Peacekeeping Capability", paper presented at the eleventh annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), The Pearson Peacekeeping Training Centre, Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, June 18, 1998.

⁸⁴ The two RDMHQ positions that received approval for funding in 1998 were in civilian police and humanitarian affairs.

⁸⁵ United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping, Draft of "Proposals, Recommendations and Conclusions", March 2000.

⁸⁶ United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, "Review of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters Concept", (Excerpt from the Report of the Secretary-General on the Support Account for Peacekeeping Operations, March 9, 2000), March 2000.

⁸⁷ For example, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is pursuing a co-operative arrangement similar to that of the SHIRBRIG, albeit without sufficient funding to effectively organise their brigade. There are also indications that a coalition of states in South Eastern Europe are engaged in related plans.

⁸⁸ Canada, DFAIT, "An Update on the Canadian Study: Towards A Rapid Reaction Capability for the United Nations", Briefing Paper, p.4.

⁸⁹ Cited in "Daily Highlights", October 25, 1996, Central News Section, Department of Public Information, United Nations.

⁹⁰ Statement by Hans van Merlo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Kingdom of the Netherlands, "The United Nations: Joining Forces", September 23, 1997, p.3.

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