

South. Since 1988, when UN peacekeepers collectively were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the number of UN peacekeepers has snowballed from 10,000 to 70,000 in 1994, serving in 17 countries.⁷⁹ The end of the superpower rivalry of the Cold War removed the main obstacle to the approval of peacekeeping missions, and there has also been a new willingness of combatants in civil conflicts to accept outside mediation and assistance. In the past five years, the Security Council has approved as many missions as it had in all of the previous 40 years.

The nature of peacekeeping in the Third World has also been changing. Traditional peacekeeping has been primarily a military function of monitoring a ceasefire between states or factions. It is non-offensive, except in self-defence. While that role continues, recent operations have had much broader and more directly developmental mandates. These have included supervising elections (Namibia, 1989); assisting in basic institution-building such as constitution drafting and re-establishing civil services (Namibia, Cambodia, 1992); reorganizing police forces in the context of new human rights machinery (El Salvador, 1992); conducting and protecting large-scale humanitarian relief operations (northern Iraq, 1991, Somalia, 1993, Rwanda, 1994); and even undertaking directly developmental activities, such as the restoration of infrastructures.⁸⁰ Being contemplated are new roles such as "environmental peacekeeping" in the event of ecological disasters and operations against drug trafficking.⁸¹

Accordingly, today's missions include many civilian staff (relief workers, police, electoral officers, legal and constitutional experts, and human rights monitors). For

79. *Globe and Mail* (Toronto), May 2, 1992.

80. Bremner, J. S., and Snell, J. M., "The Changing Face of Peacekeeping," *Canadian Defence Quarterly*, August 1992, p. 8.

81. *Ibid.*, p. 10.