

5. all prisoners-of-war to be exchanged immediately under the supervision of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross);
6. inspection and verification of compliance to be under UN auspices;
7. humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for the victims of Iraqi aggression to be worked out under UN auspices, in accordance with the principles of international law.

But once complete withdrawal is accepted and commenced, the first step is for suitable arrangements for the observation of a ceasefire, and verification of the Iraqi withdrawal. This is, in our view, clearly a responsibility of the UN Security Council to mandate and organize. The authority for the use of force against Iraq is derived from the will of the Security Council. Verification that the requirements of Resolution 660 have been satisfied should also be vested in the United Nations.

It is also important that the immediate humanitarian relief the region will need be channelled through the UN. People will need food, shelter, water, medicine, surgery, rehabilitation -- physical and psychological.

In the last two days, I have met with foreign ministers of some of the principal staffing countries of UN peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Finland which, together with Canada, compose almost half of the UN forces there. We agreed that, if requested, a truce observation and verification force could be swiftly put into place from among our forces in Lebanon, Cyprus and on Israel's border with its neighbours as well as Iraq's with Iran. We should convey to the Secretary-General our willingness to respond positively to such a request.

The next security phase needs to be comprised of peacekeeping. The UN Security Council authorized in Resolution 678 the use of whatever means were necessary to make the peace. Now it must turn to keeping the peace.

However, it must be asked to do so by the countries of the region. A force to keep the peace must be credible. It must be armed. It must be drawn from the countries most affected. They may argue that it should not be a UN force per se, with blue berets, but a combined force of Arab and other regional states, working with the UN. This would be a peacekeeping force of major dimension for the UN. Making it a UN force opens up some questions for the region and for the organization. Is viable regional security not best assured directly from a region? Would