

COMMUNIQUE

A meeting of military experts to consider the technical aspects of United Nations peace-keeping operations took place in Ottawa from November 2 - 6 inclusive at the invitation of the Government of Canada. Commodore R.W. Murdoch of Canada acted as Chairman. Representatives from the following countries attended: Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Republic. Major-General Indar Rikhye, Military Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, attended the meeting as an observer.

Three Working Groups were established. Group 1, under the Chairmanship of General Kittani, Morocco, (Vice-Chairman Major-General Kaldager, Norway) studied the questions of composition, command, control and liaison, training and operational problems. Group 2, under the Chairmanship of Major-General Ankrah, Ghana, (Vice-Chairman Colonel Amati, Italy) studied questions relating to environmental operating information and logistic support. Group 3, under the Chairmanship of Mr. B.C. Mishra, India, (Vice-Chairman Mr. O. Bierring, Denmark), studied personnel administration, public relations, accounting procedures, and legal problems.

The Chairmen of the Working Groups reported to the delegates on the work of their groups at the final plenary session, following which there was discussion of some of the points made in the reports.

The meeting did not attempt to reach formal conclusions on the items discussed. However, delegates hoped that the exchange of views, both written and oral, would contribute to the effectiveness of such national forces as might be made available to the United Nations in the future and had therefore served the general purpose of strengthening the capacity of participating nations to support the United Nations to engage in peace-keeping operations.

The meeting expressed its gratitude to the Government of Canada for its invaluable assistance in the operation of the meeting .