

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE AND DEFENCE PRODUCTION

ON

60TH UN PEACEKEEPERS DAY
MAY 29, 2008

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR NISAR AHMED MEMON
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2008

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SENATE SECRETARIAT

A seminar of the Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production was held in collaboration with the UN Information Centre Islamabad on Thursday 29th May 2008 at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No. 2, Parliament House Islamabad to commemorate the 60th International Day of UN Peacekeepers. The seminar was chaired by Senator Nisar A. Memon and was attended by the following:

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| 1. Senator Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali | Member |
| 2. Senator Naeem Hussain Chattha | Member |
| 3. Senator Asif Jatoi | Member |
| 4. Senator Ms. Saadia Abbasi | Member |
| 5. Senator Mrs. Rukhsana Zuberi | Member |

The following also participated:

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Major Gen. Athar Abbas | DG, ISPR |
| 2. Mr. Selvam Perambalam | UN Representative in Pakistan |
| 3. Ms. Ishrat Rizvi | UN Representative |

The seminar was largely attended by Members of the print and electronic media and students of the Fatima Jinnah Women University at Rawalpindi. The proceedings of the seminar were covered live by leading private channels in Pakistan. Presentations were made by DG, ISPR and Mr. Selvam Perambalam on “Pakistan’s Role in Peacekeeper’s Missions” and “the Functioning and Role of UN Peacekeepers” respectively. Ms. Ishrat Rizvi read the statement of the United Nations Secretary General on the day. The seminar started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar Secretary of the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

In May 1948, the Security Council decided to establish a field operation to supervise a fragile truce in the first Arab-Israeli war. Two weeks later, an initial group of 36 unarmed military observers arrived in the Middle East as the first United Nations peacekeepers. More than half a century later, hundreds of thousands of individuals, the vast majority of them soldiers, have served in 56 United Nations peacekeeping operations. More than 1790 military and civilian peacekeepers have died while serving in United Nations operations. As of 30 April 2003, there were about 37,000 military and civilian and police personnel from 89 countries, and more than 3,300 international civilian staff and some 6,800 locally recruited personnel serving in 14 current peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping is a technique pioneered and developed by the United Nations that defies simple definition. It is based on the principle that an impartial presence by the United Nations on the ground can ease tension and allow negotiated solutions in a conflict situation. Known widely as “blue helmets” or “blue berets” because of their distinctive headgear, United Nations peacekeepers have patrolled buffer zones between hostile parties, monitored ceasefires and helped defuse local conflicts, allowing the search for durable, political settlements to continue.

AN EVOLVING TECHNIQUE

The term “peacekeeping” is not found in the UN Charter. Dag Hammarskjold referred to it as belonging to “Chapter Six and a Half” of the Charter, placing it between traditional methods of resolving disputes peacefully, such as mediation and fact-finding (Chapter VI) and more forceful action, such as embargos and military intervention (Chapter VII). Peacekeeping operations have traditionally involved the deployment of primarily military personnel from a number of countries, under UN command, to help control and resolve armed conflict between hostile parties. From the first deployment of military observers in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in 1948, UN peacekeeping has evolved to meet the unique demands of sharply different conflicts in a changing political landscape. Born during the cold war years, traditional peacekeeping developed under the ever-present shadow of potential nuclear confrontation. Figures such as Canada’s Prime Minister Lester Pearson, UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, his aide Ralph Bunche and personnel in the field from many countries adapted the technique to make peacekeeping an indispensable means for controlling conflict in a divided, tension-ridden world.

THE LOGIC OF PEACEKEEPING

UN peacekeeping is based on the principle that an impartial UN presence on the ground can ease tensions and allow negotiated solutions in a conflict situation. The first step, which often involves intense diplomatic efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General, is to secure a halt to fighting and the consent of the parties before peacekeepers are deployed. Each peacekeeping operation has a specific set of mandated tasks, but all share certain common aims – to alleviate human suffering and to create conditions and build institutions for self-sustaining peace. The presence of a peacekeeping operation on the ground contributes to this aim by introducing the United Nations as a third party with a direct impact on the political process. Peacekeeping operations often consist of several components, including a military component, which may or may not be armed, and various civilian components encompassing a broad range of disciplines. Depending on their mandate, peacekeeping missions may be required to:

- Deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spill-over the conflict across borders;
- Stabilize conflict situations after a ceasefire to create an environment for the parties to reach a lasting peace agreement;
- Assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements;
- Lead states or territories through a transition to stable government based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development;

THE POWER OF PERSUASION BACKED BY FORCE

Certain prerequisites for the success of a peacekeeping operation have become increasingly clear. Among them are:

- a genuine desire on the part of the warring parties to solve their differences peacefully;
- a clear mandate;
- strong political support by the international community; and
- Provision of the resources necessary to achieve the operation's objectives.

The presence of armed soldiers who can return fire if fired upon is just one of several factors which contribute to the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping. Its real strength lies in the peacekeepers' impartiality, the moral authority of the international community, the pressure of world public opinion and above all, the commitment of the parties to pursue peace. The presence of the peacekeepers allows continued political and diplomatic efforts towards a more durable peace. Peacekeeping can work only if the parties to a conflict demonstrate the political will to respect agreements and permit UN personnel to carry out their tasks. UN peacekeeping forces have traditionally been only lightly armed and use minimum force in self-defence, or if armed persons try to stop them from carrying out their authorized tasks. UN military observers and civilian police are normally unarmed. Peacekeeping faces its most difficult challenges when conflicting parties fail to live up to their commitments and fighting resumes; or when they purposely thwart peacekeepers' efforts. Peacekeepers have sought to stabilize such situations and to minimize suffering of non-combatants- often at great personal risk and despite unclear mandates and insufficient resources-primarily through persuasion and negotiation. At times, however, the peacekeepers' job has become all but impossible. The conflict in Rwanda in 1994, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Somalia between 1992 and 1995 demonstrate the limits of peacekeeping where there is no peace to keep, and the dilemmas posed by combining peacekeeping and the use of force.

THE MAKING OF A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION

The United Nations has no army. Each peacekeeping operation must be designed to meet the requirements of each new situation; and each time the Security Council calls for the creation of new operation, its components must be assembled "from scratch" or reconfigured to meet the new mandate. The 15-member Security Council authorizes the deployment of a peacekeeping operation, and determines its mandate. Such decisions require at least nine votes in favour and are subject to a veto by the negative vote of any of the Council's five permanent members- China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Secretary-General makes recommendations on how the operation is to be launched and carried out, and reports on its progress. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is responsible for providing political and executive direction to operations in the

field. Troop and police contributing countries provide the military personnel, military observers and civilian police officers required. Supplies, equipment, transportation and logistical support must also be secured from Member States or from private contractors. The United Nations compensates each country for the cost of troops and equipment through a leasing agreement. Military and civilian police personnel in peacekeeping operations remain members of their own national establishments but serve under the operational control of the United Nations and are expected to conduct themselves exclusively in accordance with the international character of their mission. Civilian staff serving in peacekeeping operations include, personnel assigned from within the UN system, loaned by Member States and individuals recruited internationally or locally to fill specific jobs.

HOW PEACEKEEPING IS FINANCED

All Member States share the costs of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The General Assembly apportions these expenses based on a special scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping. This scale takes into account the relative economic wealth of Member States, with the permanent members of the Security Council required to pay a larger share because of their special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Many countries have voluntarily made additional resources available to support United Nations peacekeeping efforts on a non-reimbursable basis in the form of transportation, supplies, personnel and financial contributions above and beyond their assessed share of peacekeeping costs. In response to a request from the Secretary-General, countries may volunteer personnel, equipment, supplies or other support for a peacekeeping mission. Countries providing these essential elements are reimbursed from the mission budget at agreed rates. Contributing personnel to peacekeeping is not obligatory; a troop-contributing country retains the right to withdraw its personnel from an operation. In addition, many countries have voluntarily made additional resources available to support UN peacekeeping efforts on a non-reimbursable basis in the form of transportation, supplies, personnel and financial contributions, above and beyond their assessed share of peacekeeping costs.

VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar (Secretary Committee): Ladies and gentlemen the Senate standing committee on Defence has organized this seminar to commemorate the UN peace keepers' day falling today. We will start with welcome address by Senator Nisar A. Memon, Senator Memon is Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production and during the last caretaker government he was Minister for Information and Broadcasting. He held various cabinet positions in the past two decades. I will request Senator Nisar Memon to deliver address of welcome.

Senator Nisar A Memon. Thank you, Mr Iftikhar Ullah Babar. Bismillah-ir- Rehman-ir-Raheem. First of all let me take this opportunity to welcome you all. I wish, I could mention everybody by name. Everybody is important here but I will only say that I welcome you all, particularly my fellow Senators. I know it is not so easy to travel and be in Islamabad prior to the Senate Session scheduled for next week. I thank you all once again for being here today on this very important day especially Senator Jan Jamali Sahib, who is not only the Member of the Defence Committee but is also the Deputy Chairman of the Senate and presently he is the Acting Senate Chairman. I know you have arrived last night from your village. I also take this opportunity to welcome Senator Rukhsana Zuberi, Senator Naeem Hussain Chattha, Senator Asif Jatoi and Senator Saadia Abbasi. I also welcome the Director General Inter Services Public Relations(ISPR), Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, who is here today to brief us about the contribution of Pakistan Armed Forces to the United Nations peace keeping operations. We also have the United Nations representative here and I welcome you, particularly I want to thank the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for proposing this event. Last year too we held this seminar and this is the second time in succession that the Defence Committee has organized this event. If you recall, last time we had no photo exhibition. This exhibition which you have in front of you is a good way to understand the peacekeeping operation. I also want to thank the Press for their large presence. It only shows the importance the press attaches to occasions like this, where Pakistan has participated internationally. I can also see the presence of students, who are a great source of strength to us. We have a future generation here and they are the ones, who will be running the show *Insha-Allah* in the years to come.

I think peace is must for human advancement. If the human society has to progress, we must bring peace. And peace is essential not only between countries but has to be within the country and within societies. UN's role in peace keeping is now well-accepted and acknowledged. Today, we are here to pay tributes to all men and women, who have served and are serving in UN peace keeping operations around the world. In fact, we pay tribute to their high level of patriotism, professionalism, dedication and courage that they have shown and we also are here to honour the memory of those, who lost their lives in performance of international humanitarian duties. In fact there is a major history of the role of UN in peace keeping which goes back to 1948. I can only say that from 1948 to 2008 there have been 63 UN peace keeping operations and missions, of which only 17 are continuing, which means that many of them dating back from 1946-47 have been terminated after contributing a great deal. In fact in January, 2008, about 83,445 UN peace keeping personnels were operating in various peace keeping operations around the world.

I would like to refer here to the UN Charter which says and I quote "To save succeeding generation from the scourge of war." While we must avoid wars I think, it is important that societies, our own societies must have peace within all its institutions, must be

respected by all the institutions, must be strengthened so that we have peace within, which will encourage peace outside and we will be able to avoid the scourge of war. In fact this peace keeping, I understand, does it in three ways. Conflict prevention, this is very important, it is not after the events have happened but when the conflict is prevented. Second is when peace has been achieved then you have to keep the peace because the fruits of all the efforts lie in effectively maintaining a peace and then of course you need to build peace. I never realized that it starts from not only the field operations when you wear a blue helmet; it is when you land in an area that there is a field operation. In peace time it is educating them, it is de-mining, it is social work, and it is helping, even crossing the road by elder people. So, this is a good demonstration of the various facts of peace keeping. I can only say today when we are sitting here as the Defence Committee, which represents the Parliament that this is specialized area of the Defence Ministry and also Parliament which represents the people of Pakistan. I am delighted to hear when the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Gillani, after the oath said that we shall strengthen the Parliament and immediately added in the same breath; parliament means President of Pakistan, the Senate and the National Assembly. These are three components of the Parliament. So, we in fact have a commitment by the leadership of Pakistan, by the Prime Minister of Pakistan that representatives of people will be strengthened. We are proud that we are today meeting as the representatives of all of you. I leave the details of the Pakistan's contribution to the peace keeping operations to Major General Abbas but I will only say that Pakistan is one of the largest contributors to the peace keeping force as the number of officers and soldiers stands at over 10,000. I must say that the supreme sacrifice that a peace keeper can give is his life. And men of Pakistan Armed Forces, in order to serve the people of the world, have given supreme sacrifices. 96 of our soldiers and officers have embraced ***Shahadat*** which is a tribute to them and we pray that we continue to participate in peace at home, peace in the world.

Pakistan has a tremendous record in UN peace keeping and I think, this has been acknowledged in various statements that have been made by the United Nations Secretary General at different times. I believe the oldest peace keeping force is the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan" (UNMOGIP), which has been in Pakistan since 1948 and they are supervising the Line of Control. We Pakistanis look forwards to the resolution of the issues with India so that there is no need for supervising the cease fire. The people of Kashmir need to have freedom, to have their land to themselves and the rights like any people of the world to govern themselves as independent, sovereign people, who should be responsible for peace. I think the peace-talks are going on. We hope that the core issue of Kashmir, which has been recognized since President Musharraf brought it to International attention when he extended the hand of friendship to Mr. Vajpayee in the *SAARC* Conference. I think, this process has grown and we are very proud that the Present Government has also made efforts and there will be progress on resolution of core dispute with India. I will only say that the world today needs to remove the root causes of disputes among States and people, which finally eliminate the need for any mission or deployment and finally reduce the need for UN peace keeping.

I thank you all and the statement that I have made is already in print and should be circulated to the Press or anybody desiring to have. Now I hand over back to our Secretary Mr. Iftikhar Babar. Thank you.

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar: Thank you sir, for your statement. Now I invite Ishrat Rizvi, representative of the United Nations in Pakistan to read the message of the UN Secretary-General on the Day.

Mrs Ishrat Rizvi: Thank you very much Mr. Iftikharullah Babar. I welcome you all here to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the UN Peace Keeping and the International Day of UN Peace Keepers. I am Ishrat Rizvi, National Information Officer of the UN Information Centre. I would like to convey my gratitude to the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production for hosting and collaborating this very important commemoration specially Chairman, Senate Standing Committee Nisar A. Memon and all the Committee members. I would like to welcome all respective Senators, DG, ISPR, Maj. General Athar Abbas, Mr. Selvam, who is here to represent the United Nations Peace keeping operations, he has more than 20 years experience of the Peace Keeping Operations and all the distinguished guests here, thank you very much for joining us. I have the privilege and honour to read out the Secretary-General's message and I quote,

“This year, the annual International Day of UN Peacekeeper also marks the 60th anniversary of UN peacekeeping came from a handful of European and American countries and they were mostly unarmed military men observing and monitoring cease-fire lines. Since then, peacekeeping has developed into a flagship enterprise of our Organization. Today, we have more than 110,000 men and women deployed in conflict zones around the world. They come from nearly 120 countries—an all-time high, reflecting confidence in United Nations peacekeeping. They come from nations large and small, rich and poor—some of them countries recently afflicted by war themselves. They bring different cultures and experiences to the job, but they are united in their determination to foster peace. Some are in uniform but many are civilians and their activities go far beyond monitoring. They train police, disarm ex-combatants, support elections and help build State institutions. They build bridges, repair schools, assist flood victims and protect women from sexual violence. They uphold human rights and promote gender equality. Thanks to their efforts, life-saving humanitarian assistance can be delivered and economic development can begin. In the past year, I have visited peacekeepers in African, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean. I have seen refugees returning home, children heading back to school, citizens once again secure under the rule of law. I have seen whole societies moving, with the help of the peacekeepers, from devastation to rejuvenation. In Haiti, in Liberia, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the blue helmets have provided breathing space for a fragile peace to take hold. We could not do this job without our partners in regional organizations. The African Union and the UN are deploying our first hybrid force in Darfur. And we are working with the European Union in neighbouring Chad and the Central African Republic. More than half of all our Member States contribute troops and police to peacekeeping operations. We are grateful to every one of them. Our special thanks go to the top contributors: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Nepal. Together, these nations of the south contribute nearly half of the UN’s peacekeepers. This anniversary is an occasion to celebrate, but also to mourn our fallen colleagues. Over these six decades, more than two thousands and four hundred men and women who have died serving the cause of peace. Just last year alone, we lost 87 brave individuals. Each one is a hero. Today, we recommit ourselves to ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten, and the vital work of the blue helmets continues as long as they are needed”. Thank you.

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar: On behalf of the Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production I thank the Secretary General for his statement on the UN Peacekeepers Day. Honourable Senators, ladies and gentlemen next we have a presentation by Mr. Selvam Perambalam.

Mr. Selvam Perambalam: Honourable Chairman, Defence and Defence Production Committee, honourable Senators, Major General Athar Abbas DG, ISPR and my colleagues

from UNIC, a very good morning to all of you. There are two representatives here, who are from Peace Keeping Mission that is my colleague from UNAMA and me. I have a few slides to show you this morning. Basically there are questions and some answers to whet your appetite on Peace Keeping throughout the world.

The first one is what is Peace Keeping? Peace keeping gets its authority from the UN Security Council to give a mandate for a mission to start. Subsequently, UN Peace Keepers monitor and observe the peace process that emerged in post conflict situations and assist conflicting parties to implement the peace agreement they have signed. Why is peace keeping essential? This is due to inadequate political structures that fail to provide for orderly transfer of power. UN Peace Keeping its legitimacy and universality are unique. It derives from its character as an action taken on behalf of a global organization, which is currently comprises 193 member-states. Does UN Peace Keeping work? UN Peace Keeping is both effective and cost effective. Alternative to the UN in this field are either vastly more expensive or considerably less capable. Multinational nature of UN Peace Keeping provides impartiality and legitimacy.

What has the UN done to improve peace keeping since 1990s? Basically to ensure rapid deployment and mandates that meets the needs on the ground. For example in Darfur clear rules of engagement, improved cooperation between the UN and regional organizations as was mentioned, the African Union efforts to protect the civilians in conflicts the role expanded to include the rule of law, civil administration, economic development and human rights.. What are the current challenges to UN's successful peace keeping operation? The new ballooning demands have tested the UN's peace keeping capacity as never before and have required substantial additional resources and another look at how the UN runs its peace keeping operations. The Department of Peace Keeping Operations in New York has been bifurcated into department of Peace Keeping Operations and Department of Field Support. The situation has further been complicated by the fact that several of the world's most capable militaries and strong economies are either heavily committed - mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan and are choosing not to contribute troops to UN Peace Keeping. Meanwhile that UN's top ten troops contributing countries to peace keeping operations are from developing countries and have limited resources

What are the criteria for successful peacekeeping operation? All key parties to the conflict must consent to stop fighting and to accept the UN role in helping them resolve their dispute and to the deployment of a UN Peacekeeping Mission. The members of the Security Council must then agree on a clear and an achievable mandate. Subsequently, deployment must proceed quickly. Real peace takes time, building national capacities take time and rebuilding trust also takes time.

Who decides to dispatch a UN Peacekeeping Operation and who is in charge on the ground? The Security Council has the mandate to dispatch a Peacekeeping Operation through its mandate and the five permanent members in the Council they have veto powers so if one of them does not agree then that Mission will not materialize. The department of peacekeeping operation then directs and manages the missions on behalf of the Secretary General, who reports to the Council on their progress. How much does it costs and who pays for these operations. All member states are legally obliged to pay their share of peacekeeping cause under a formula that they themselves have established, the top ten providers of assessed contribution to UN peacekeeping operations are as follows:

JAPAN
GERMANY
UNITED KINGDOM
FRANCE
ITALY
CANADA
SPAIN
CHINA
NETHERLANDS

How are peacekeepers compensated? Troops serving in UN Peacekeeping Missions are paid by their own Governments according to their own national salary scales. However, countries volunteering military contingents and formed police units are reimbursed by the United Nations.

Who contributes personnel? All the 193 member states contribute. The 10 main contributors to UN Peacekeeping since October 2006, were Pakistan leading the peacekeepers followed by Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Nepal, Ghana, Uruguay, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa provide more than 60% of UN military and police personnel.

When can you and peacekeepers use force? This can be done under chapter 7 (5), the enforcement chapter of the United Nations' Charter. They can use all necessary means to protect civilians, prevent violence against UN staff and personnel and deter armed elements from ignoring peace agreements. Chapter 7 is currently enforced in Darfur, Haiti and Congo.

What is the UN doing to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping? In all peace keeping missions there are gender offices and gender focal points to promote gender balance in the local police forces and the department of peacekeeping strives to establish a gender balanced staffing structure.

How do you measure success in peacekeeping in want some reasoned examples? In the short term, if the mandate given by the council is effectively fulfilled, that is success. Mozambique a long time ago and Sierra Leone recently completed its peacekeeping mandate successfully and the country is sustaining itself.

How long there is a peacekeeping operation remain and why have some being in place for many years? Initially the period of a mandate is normally six months to one year. Current thinking is that establishing sustainable peace takes longer and that other benchmark should be required before peacekeeper withdraw completely. Out of the 13 operations established by the United Nations from 1948 as the Chairman has said to 1998, five are deployed, they are mostly in the Middle East where peacekeepers continue to monitor boundaries in a region prone to tensions but also in the state of Jammu and Kashmir where the UN supervises the ceasefire between India and Pakistan and in Cyprus where the Turkish and Greek Cypriots have yet to resolve their dispute over the island. Thank you very much.

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar: Thank you Mr. Selvam Perambalam. Now, I request Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, Director General, Inter Services Public Relations to talk about Pakistan's contributions to the UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Major General Athar Abbas: Thank you Iftikhar sahib. *Bismillah-ir-Rehman-ir-Raheem.* Senator A. Memon, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, honourable Senators, distinguished guests and students, *Assalam-o-Alaikum* and

a very good morning to everyone. In view of the presence of students here, in my structured talk I have included certain details for the benefits and the value of students. So, bear with me for that and I have also brought few officers with me, who have served in these missions and may be at the end of the session you may like to interact and benefit from their experience.

I will talk about Pakistan's contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping operation. As we all know ladies and gentlemen that Pakistan became a member of United Nations soon after its independence on 14th August, 1947 and committed itself to upholding the principles of UN Charter. To quote Quaid-e-Azam Muhammed Ali Jinnah and I quote, "we believe in the principles of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and are prepared to make our utmost contributions to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Pakistan will never be found lacking extending its material and moral support to the oppressed and depressed people of the world in upholding the principles of UN Charter".

Pakistan has always provided maximum possible support to maintain peace and stability around the world and has been at the forefront in international peacekeeping missions around the globe. Pakistan firmly believes in the purpose and principles of the UN Charter and its contribution to UN Peacekeeping has been as wide ranging as the varied, cultural, geographical, political and security conditions in which it had to operate. Pakistan's overall participation in peacekeeping activities of the United Nations reflects its commitment to peace across the globe.

The current deployment includes 8 major peacekeeping missions and 9 observer missions. In pursuance of this commitment, 98 Pakistani peacekeepers have so far laid down their lives almost 2 men per year for peace and tranquillity of the world. Contribution main in this regard speaks of Pakistan's desire to see the principles of human dignity, freedom and self-determination applied to all the people struggling to secure their inalienable basic human rights. Presently, Pakistan is the largest contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world. Pakistan is providing approximately over 12% of the troops for ongoing UN Missions.

I will briefly cover the past missions of UN Peacekeeping of Pakistan. The history of Pakistan Armed Forces' commitment in peacekeeping can be traced back to 1960 when Pakistani soldiers became part of United Nations' Peacekeeping efforts in Congo. With the expanded and renewed UN role we have gradually become a forerunner in the worldwide peace efforts. Our past contributions to various UN Missions in the form of contingents and observer groups are as follows. These are the countries with their location, duration and the strength of the peace keepers.

a. UN Contingents

Ser	Name of Mission	Location	From	To	Strong
(1)	UN Operation in Congo (ONUC)	Congo	1960	1964	800
(2)	UN Security Force in New Guinea West Irian (UNSF)	West Irian	1962	1963	1500
(3)	UN Iraq - Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM)	Iraq-Kuwait	1991	2003	3408
(4)	UN Mission in Haïti (UNMIH)	Haiti	1995	1998	2050
(5)	UN Transitional Authority in	Cambodia	1992	1993	1123

	Cambodia (UNTAC)				
(6)	UN Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM I &II)	Somalia	1992	1995	8040
(7)	UN Protection Force in Bosnia (UNPROFOR)	Bosnia	1992	1996	6000
(8)	UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slovenia (UNTAES)	Eastern Slovenia	1996	1997	1000
(9)	UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)	Sierra Leone	2001	Dec 2005	13626
(10)	UN Mission in Burundi (ONUB)	Burundi	2004	Dec 2006	2370

Similarly, in the UN Observer Groups Pakistan has also contributed and the names of countries, the duration and the strength of the Observer Groups is given below.

b. UN Observers

Ser	Name of Mission	Location	From	To	Strong
(1)	UN Yemen Observer Mission, Yemen (UNYOM)	Yemen	1963	1964	7 Observers
(2)	UN Transitional Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG)	Namibia	1989	1990	20 Observers
(3)	UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL)	Liberia	1993	1997	40 Observers
(4)	UN Mission For Assistance in Rwanda (UNAMIR)	Rawanda	1995	1996	6 Observers
(5)	UN Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM III)	Angola	1995	1997	16 Observers
(6)	UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP)	Prevlaka	1996	2002	5 Observers

Croatia (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

Similarly, ladies and gentlemen, the Missions hosted by Pakistan are as reflected. They are three in number. First is the oldest UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan which starting from 1949 is to date still there. Then the UN India Pakistan Observer Mission from 65 to 66 and UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan from 1988 to 1990.

Present or current missions. First is the UN Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo. It is there since August 2003. Pakistan started this Mission by contributing a Battalion Group comprising one Infantry Battalion and the supporting elements. The Mission was later expanded and Pakistan contributed an additional Infantry Brigade comprising of three Infantry Battalions. The total strength of this Group is 3582 personnel. Followed by is the Pakistan UN Mission to Liberia. Its headquarter is in Mongolia since November 2003. Pakistan's contingent in Liberia consists of a sector headquarters with two Infantry Battalions. One Infantry Battalion as quick reaction force and three Engineer Companies and a Level 2 Hospital. The total strength of this Group is 3391.

Then is the Pak-UN Mission in Ivory Coast. Its headquarter is in Abidjan since July 2004 and the Pakistani contingent consists of one Transport Company, one Engineer Company an Infantry Battalion comprising 750 personnel and a formed Police Unit, comprising 175 personnel. The total strength of this Group is 1129. Then is the UN Mission in Sudan with the headquarter in Khartoum since October 2005. This contingent consists of a sector headquarter and an Infantry Battalion, 2 Aviation Units, one Transport Company, a Level 2 Hospital Engineer and a De-mining Company. This total strength of this Group is 1542.

Similarly, there is a small mission in Haiti with headquarter at Port au Prince since October 2004. This, we have contributed two companies of formed Police Units and the strength of these company units is 250.

Then is a Pakistan UN Mission in Kosovo. It is there since December 2006. Its headquarters is in Pristina. It also comprises a Civilian Police Contingent comprising 115 personnel. And finally Pakistan UN Mission in East Timor with headquarters at Dilli. It is there since November 2004. It comprises of 195 personnel as part of formed Police Unit. It also includes the personnel from FC and Rangers.

The Military Observer Groups or the Staff Officers which deputed for UN Missions are as shown on the slide. And this is a total of 129 Observers and 63 Staff Officers which makes the total of 192.

Serial	Mission	Observers	Staff Officers
a.	Congo (DRC)	55	2
b.	Sierra Leone	-	1
c.	East Timor	4	-
d.	Liberia	16	13
e.	Georgia	11	-
f.	Ivory Coast	11	11
g.	Western Sahara	8	-
h.	Kosovo	2	-
j.	Sudan	20	25
k.	UN Sectt, New York	-	2
l.	Haiti	-	1
n.	Ethiopia / Eritrea	2	1
o.	Darfur	-	6
p.	Burundi	-	1
Total		129	63

Ladies and gentlemen, the total strength of Pakistani troops in various contingents, staff officers and observer groups is 10705.

a.	Haiti	250
b.	Kosovo	175
c.	Congo	3590
d.	Liberia	3 419
e.	Sudan	1580
f.	Ivory Coast	1304

g.	East Timor	195
h.	Staff Officers/ Observers	192
	Total	10,705

Upcoming missions. The UN is in the process of establishing new missions in Darfur, Sudan and Pakistan has been asked to participate in this Mission. United Nations request for participating in UN Mission in Darfur is being processed and we are likely to participate in this Mission by providing a Level 3 Hospital and an Engineer Company by next month i.e. June, 2008.

There have been a total of 98 casualties (i.e.) martyred and killed and 93 wounded in these missions. The total comes to 191. The details are provided in the table below.

Ser	Mission	Dead	Wounded	Total
a.	Congo	6	6	12
b.	Somalia	40	71	111
c.	Bosnia	6	4	10
d.	Cambodia	2	3	5
e.	Haiti	2	2	4
f.	Western Sahara	1	1	2
g.	Kuwait	1	-	1
h.	Sierra Leone	24	-	24
j.	Eastern Slovenia	-	1	1
k.	East Timor	-	1	1
l.	UNMOGIP	2	-	2
m.	Georgia	1	-	1
n.	Ivory Coast	3	3	6
o.	Burundi	4	-	4
p.	Liberia	4	1	5
q.	Sudan	2	-	2
	Total	98	93	191

Future commitment with the U N. Pakistan is a signatory of Memorandum of Understanding on UN SAS , that is Stand by Arrangement System which was concluded in 1990. The purpose of the MOU was to identify resources which a country would be able to provide to the UN under specified conditions whenever requested. A Brigade Group size force has been earmarked for this purpose. Similarly, for the UN capacity building to meet UN request on short notice, we are in the process of establishing an exclusive warehouse having sufficient stocks of equipment and stores to equip a Brigade Group plus size force in an emergency. Most of the required equipment has been procured and stocked.

Ladies and gentlemen, a word about the tributes paid to the Pakistani peace keepers by eminent personalities. First is the Prime Minister of China, Mr. Chou en Lie what he says is I quote “the only example in UN history, when a UN Military Force had gone in, performed its role honestly and came out was Pakistan’s Military Contingent in Indonesia, (West Irian)”. The President of Indonesia, Mr. Soekarno says, “it was because of Pakistani troops that Indonesia and Pakistan came close together. They were Pakistan’s best ambassadors”. Lt. Gen. J.M. Sanderson , Force Commander of UN Mission in Cambodia ,

now Kampuchea says, “ The Pakistani Contingent showed professionalism , patience, determination and compassion which indeed are the hallmark of an effective peace keeping force”.

In Somalia, where we suffered maximum casualties, the Deputy Commander of the Force Maj. Gen. Thomas M Montgomery says, “Pakistani troops displayed their professional dedication in Somalia to the service of peace disregarding their personal safety. It was here that Pakistan Army suffered its heaviest casualties overseas when 42 Pakistan soldiers laid down their lives in the service of peace. Many of the soldiers are alive today because of the willingness and skill of the Pakistani soldiers who worked jointly in a rescue operation. We are thankful to the people and army of Pakistan for sending such splendid soldiers to Somalia whom we feel proud to serve with. Pakistani soldiers have been completely dependable even in the most difficult circumstances. They have shouldered a huge and a dangerous load for Unisom and the Somali people”.

In Sierra Leone the US Ambassador Mr. Peter Shaves said and I quote “Once again you are showing us the highest standard. The Pakistan Army in Sierra Leone has shown the world how peace keeping should be done”. In Bosnia, Miss Dijanana Islamovic who was the editor of Bosnian News said, “PAKBAT has not only protected us from the brutal assault of Serb offensive but has also infused a new spirit in our lives. They have given us all sorts of humanitarian help, taught us the values of Islam and above all have given us a constant medical care in form of their hospitals”.

In Eastern Slovenia Paul Klein transitional Administrator of United Nations said, “I wish to reaffirm my gratitude and appreciation for the professionalism the Pakistani contingent has displayed during stay in Eastern Slovenia. They are indeed performing great services to humanity.” And lastly, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, who was Special Representative of the Secretary General in Haiti said, “It gives me great pleasure to express my warmest congratulation and sincere admiration for the splendid work you and the officers and the men of the Pakistani Battalion have done all over Northern part of Haiti. Yours was the most difficult area with a history of militant activities and local feuds. The Americans before you had probably 4 or 5 times more troops and had difficulty controlling the situation. The PAKBAT’s performance was consistently impeccable and earned admiration of everyone, Haitian and foreigners alike.”

Ladies and Gentlemen! With conflict prevention, peace keeping or enforcement, peace building should be also be part of a comprehensive response to address complicated issues that erupt in war torn countries. Post conflict peace building is crucial for establishing peace and sustainable development in war ravaged areas. A big challenge to UN is to ensure coherence and synergy between peace keeping and peace building so that a smooth transition takes from peace keeping to conditions of self-sustaining peace and development. Thank you very much.

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar: Thank you Major General Athar Abbas for your presentation. Now, I request Senator Nisar Memon, Chairman of the Committee to invite members for comments and questions, if any.

Senator Saadia Abbasi: - Before, we go through the Question and Answer session may I request the Chair to give a standing ovation to the contribution of the Pakistani peace-keepers and UN peace-keepers. Thank you very much all.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: Certainly 29th May is a very important day because it is celebrated by the UN each year to commemorate the people, who offered sacrifice for the cause of peace in the world. I am glad that on this occasion the Parliament of Pakistan and the Defence Committee of the Senate, which represent the people of Pakistan is celebrating this day in collaboration with United Nations. On this day those individuals and soldiers are being remembered, who sacrificed their lives for peace. It is a matter of great pleasure that Pakistan is the only country in the world, which has contributed over 10,000 armed personnel for UN Peacekeeping missions, in such a big number. Of these, 96 have embraced martyrdom while performing their duty. This day was observed by the Defence Committee last year as well and Insha Allah the Committee will continue this tradition in the future also. I am thankful to all of you for attending the seminar today. Now for question and comments I will invite the members of the Committee and I start from Senator Rukhsana Zuberi. Madam you have the floor.

Senator Rukhsana Zuberi: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think it was a very good presentation. I have a few questions. I would like to know from the UN representatives how you gauge top resource contributors and top peace-keeping contributors because what I see is that in the on going missions the contribution of Pakistanis 12.25%, which is really a big figure. Secondly, the comments of various dignitaries about our missions cannot be different because these are about our people, who are in the first line of defence and first line of martyrdom. We would also like to know how the Shaheeds and injured are taken care of and what is the contribution of UN and what steps our Defence Forces take in such a situation? Lastly I would like to know from Major General Ather Abbas, whether Pakistan is signatory to missing persons convention of United Nation. I would propose that meeting of the Defence Committee is held to brief the members on what is being done for our peace keeping missions, how we are taking care of them or what improvements can be made. Thank you.

Senator Nisar Memon: Thank you very much Senator Zuberi, I think we certainly will, I would ask the Secretary to take note and in the coming days after the budget session we will hold a meeting and if possible during our next interaction have some of the officers and Jawans, who have participated in peacekeeping missions so that we have a complete picture on this. I now hand over the floor to Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas to respond to the question on UN Convention and the missing persons. Thank you.

Major General Athar Abbas: - The army has complete package for those, who lay down their lives in the line of duty. It provides a package to the widow, to the family, for the education of their children, a house and some piece of land to the widows and the families of the Shaheeds. There is also a UN package, I do not have the details of that but as far as the Army is concerned it has a complete package to provide to the Shaheeds and that is over and above what is provided by the U.N. About the missing persons convention whether Pakistan is signatory to the U.N protocol, I am sorry, I am not aware of that, may be somebody in this room has the information he can share it with us. Thank you.

Senator Nisar A. Memon:- Thank you very much, Maj. General Ather Abbas. Secretary Sahib the question of missing persons will be referred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I think they will be able to give us a response to it. Now I will invite U.N. Representative to respond to the questions regarding compensation.

Mr. Selvam Perambalam: - The Senator's question on death and disability. There is compensation on death and disability and it has two categories; one is for U.N. Observers and the other is for formed military troops. I do not know the exact amounts for deaths but

there is a compensation for that and if you are disabled and if you are hospitalized, the U.N. will foot your hospital bill until you have recovered. We have incidences where we sent people from the mission not back to their home country, but to Germany where there are specialized doctors, who could treat the injured. So, the U.N. sends injured persons wherever there is expertise in this field. So, it does take care of death and disability. Thank you.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: - Thank you. We would appreciate if you could send us details of compensation, which can be then shared with the members. Thank you very much.

Senator Rukhsana Zuberi: - What is the gauge to determine financial contributors and then how do you relate that with the top peace keepers contributors.

Mr. Selvam Perambalam: - In the U.N. there are two types of budgets one is assessed budget, which is regular budget of which the U.S. was paying around 25% and it is now slightly lower because the Japanese and the Koreans have taken share of that. The formula works around GDP. Then there is another budget which is peace keeping budget, of which the U.S is paying about 25 to 30%. So, there are two budgets, one is assessed budget all member states are assessed for that, that is regular budget, then there is another budget called the peace keeping budget where the U.S is a main contributor. I do not have the formula but it is based on GDP.

Senator Rukhsana Zuberi: - How do you evaluate countries, which are top contributors or those which sends troops in a big number. I mean India contributes fewer troops, which is a bigger country, China sends less than us too. So, what advantage does a country have by sending more troops?

Mr. Selvam Perambalam: - This I said is voluntary. The U.N. approaches its member states and asks for troops for a peace keeping mission and I must congratulate Pakistan because it has volunteered more troops for U.N. peace keeping missions.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: - I think it only indicates the concern of Pakistan for peace in the world and our continued contribution to it that is all we can say. I believe all the governments since the inception of Pakistan have done this, which is really remarkable. Senator Naeem Hussain Chattha should have more questions because his family contributed to the creation of Pakistan, his father was one of the architects of Pakistan.

Senator Naeem Hussain Chattha: I begin In the name of Allah. First of all I would like to appreciate the initiative of the UN to promote the cause of a noble mission. It is a positive and commendable step and we see this role of the UN with utmost regard. I think that peacekeeping is not only an old Islamic tradition but all religions give it due importance. But despite all efforts and our hope peace in the Middle East, Palestine, Kashmir, Chechnya, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan could not be achieved and instead lawlessness is at rise. I think there are some reasons for that. Basically the root causes of these conflicts are not being addressed due to which peace is not achieved. You may know better that there is injustice in those areas and then there are hegemonic designs. The top ten financial contributing countries and the world powers are responsible for this. It should be worrisome for them and they should find out why instead of positive results, terrorism and lawlessness is increasing. Do they have a program to achieve good results if their mission is based on good faith? In this regard what is the UN doing? What is their strategy or what programme they have for the future?

Senator Nisar Memon: Now I will give the floor to Senator Asif Jatoi, who is also a very distinguish member of the Committee and I would say that his approach is more technical, so, we expect a technical question from him and also he comes from a very distinguish family and is the son of former Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

Senator Asif Jatoi: Thank you Mr. Chairman! This seminar has shown us the importance of Pakistani efforts in the U.N peace keeping efforts and I hope that Pakistan's contribution will continue in the future. I have two questions to ask, (i) whether member states contribute their equipments, meaning aircrafts, tanks and weaponry or that are provided separately by the U.N. and (ii) since the creation of U.N. have conflicts increased or decreased. Thank you.

Mr. Selvam Perambalam: We get assets in three different forms; firstly the U.N has its own assets. Secondly countries may not contribute troops but they will contribute aircrafts and equipment. The third one is by contractual means. So, those are the three means by which peace-keeping missions get their equipment. Now, on conflicts, I can only say that conflicts have become more and more multi-dimensional and more complicated and complex from those that happened before. That is all I can tell you on your second question. Thank you.

Major General Athar Abbas: May I add something? We are involved in two types of protocol with the U.N. known as "wet protocol" and "dry protocol". In the wet protocol, the peacekeepers and the equipment are provided by the same country and everything is paid for by the UN including the maintenance and upkeep of this equipment. This is a preferred option because the troops are trained on that particular equipment and feel very comfortable in operating the same. The other is the dry protocol, whereunder the equipment and weapons are provided by some other country, under the U.N. auspices, for which no amount is paid to the country, which is providing the peace-keepers.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: - Thank you very much. We come almost to the close of the meeting and I know there will be questions by the press, there will be questions by the students but those will be entertained during tea that we will have in the cafeteria and you can intermingle and ask those questions. Now, I will request Senator Jan Jamali to make closing comments. Thank you.

Senator Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali: With the press around, I have to be very careful with my comments. My question is to Major General Athar Abbas about pay and allowances paid to the peacekeepers and the compensation paid to the injured and families of the Shaheeds. Recently about a week back an Army Officer from Balochistan lost his life in a road accident. Hailing from that Province, I want to know for my own knowledge, as to what compensation was paid to his family. There are some historical facts which have to be mentioned. When Somali civilians were being used as human shield, Pakistani troops were on the receiving end. The Americans made a movie about Somalia; "The Black Hawk is down" but did not mention Pakistani's contribution. At least people like me take note of these things. Anyway, thanks all of you on behalf of the Committee and my own behalf for attending this session. Let us interact over a cup of tea in the cafeteria next door.

Senator Nisar Memon: - Thank you. Now, I declare this meeting close. I thank the press for coming in such a large number. I have learnt that the proceedings of this seminar are going live on various television channels. Thank you for the live coverage.

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR
Secretary Committee

SENATOR NISAR AHMED MEMON
Chairman Committee