



Deployment of UN Forces

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Background

History of deployment

The first UN peacekeeping mission was in 1948, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the UN committed military observers to Israel. During the "Cold War" only 13 peacekeeping and observer missions were in progress.

The end of the "Cold War" affords a lot of conflicts and their character was "new". Because more than 90 per cent of them taking place within, rather than between, states.

9/11 delivered the world and the UN another category of enemy, so the main topic since 2001 is the fight against the terrorism.

Since 1988 the UN did more than 50 deployments, the conflicts and their quality changed during the time. Today the UN leads 17 missions in the world.

Types of deployment

- **Chapter VI**

It means that the UN sends peacekeeping troops or observers. The idea behind is to find a peaceful way to get out of a conflict or hold the peace; instruments are peacekeeping and –building. These missions can be started by the Security Council or by the General Assembly; the concerned countries have to accept the mission.

- **Chapter VII**

It means that the UN sends forces to accomplish with weapon power sanctions against the opponent of war, which is named by the UN; the instrument is peace enforcement. Those missions can only be started by the Security Council; the concerned countries do not need to accept the mission.

The Diplomatic Path

Prerequisites

It is important to have the authorization for the deployment of UN forces. This can be announced by the General Assembly for Chapter VI (Article 22 UN Charta) and by the Security Council for Chapter VI and VII missions (Article 24 and 25 UN Charta). When they decide to launch a UN mission, it is based on a resolution. But it happened only two times that the General Assembly started a peacekeeping mission.

Normally the background for a Security Council resolution was given by the Secretary-General; his information includes the details for the mandate mostly, the legal status.

The command of the forces can be entrusted to the Security Council or the Secretary-General.

When the resolution passes the Security Council, the Secretary-General gets the order to put the forces together. There are four functions of UN forces: observation, separation of conflict parties, maintenance of law and order and others, which means to force back foreign influence or to receive or keep territorial state integrity.

Finding support

The Security Council has to make sure that the affected states agree with the resolution that UN is going to station forces on their territory, when it is a Chapter VI mission and parallel he has to find states, which are interested to support the mission, i.e., want to send forces. The countries, member states of the UN, and Secretary-General talk about the "who", "how many" and "how long", it is similar to a "Turkish bazaar". Sometimes it is hard to find a base between so many different countries. And it depends on, what the forces have to do, if it is a Chapter VI or VII mission. The states which raise forces do this normally based on an informal or sometimes and unusually on a formal foundation.

The next step, when troops and material are found, is to set up the rules of engagement. This is a political process with the aim to offer the rules of engagement for the UN mission. Those were created by the UN and partner states appointees. The masterstroke during this time is to bridgeover the special and different ideas of the partners.

Command structure

- **Observer missions:** political command and leadership is transmitted from the Security Council to the Secretary-General, under him is the commander in chief, who is named by him. He leads the observers, who are from different countries and not under the military control of their state during the mission. Sometimes there is a civilian mission leader between the commander in chief and the Secretary-General.
- **Peacekeeping missions:** The difference to an observer mission is that the soldiers remain under the national command structure. It means the political command and guidance is given from the Security Council to the Secretary-General like in an observer mission, under him is the commander in chief of the whole mission, who is named by him. Under him are the commanders in chief of the national contingents. The commander in chief over all is one of the national commanders, i.e., the Secretary-General chooses with him a leading nation, NATO, EU or African Union can be treated as a "leading nation". A problem can be that the soldiers are under national command for an international thing, so sometime they sit between the chairs by following instructions.

In a peacekeeping mission is it nevertheless possible to have a civilian mission leader between the Secretary-General and the over all commander in chief.

Observer and peacekeeping missions are part of the maintenance of international peace, and when states support missions with forces they have to pay the soldiers and the material, all the other costs are paid by the UN out of its budget.

The general staff committee gives advice to the Security Council on how to carry out a mission, but the SC does not need to follow this advice, the committee only has an advisory function.

Authorization to raise forces is unchallenged and forces under UN command are seen as s UN organ.

Sources

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