General Assembly Matters Files of the Sec.-Gen. 1173

General Assembly - Eighteenth Session - Written assessments by seven Under-Secretaries

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ORIGINAL ORDER

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UNITED NATIONS  
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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  

TO: U Thant  
Secretary-General  

Date: 26 December 1963  

THROUGH:  

FROM: David B. Vaughan  
Director of General Services  

SUBJECT: Functions of the Military Adviser to the Secretary-General  

1. In accordance with your request, I have given careful study to the proposed statement of functions of the Military Adviser to the Secretary-General which you forwarded to me with your memoranda of 19 December 1963.

2. As you know, I have always considered that the successful management of a United Nations peace-keeping operations, such as those in Gaza and the Congo, depends in a large measure upon the availability of experienced and sound military guidance for the Secretary-General and the Secretariat and I recognize the importance of the functions of the Military Adviser. At the same time, I would point out that the military operations have constituted only one phase of the peace-keeping operations. Experience has shown that in their respective contributions to the success of these operations the political and the administrative functions have been of even greater importance. It has been implicit in the administration of our mission activities that these three spheres require close co-ordination, however, they would in my judgment, become ineffectively confused were the functions of the Military Adviser to include operational responsibilities with an independence of action. On the administrative side, in which I am of course particularly interested, the basic requirements have been those laid down in the financial and staff rules with respect to procurement, accounts, budgets and staff. The responsibilities of my Office, as well as those of the Controller and Director of Personnel, in these matters have been co-ordinated through the Field Operations Service and administered through the Head of the Mission and the chief administrative officer. The effectiveness of these arrangements has been demonstrated both by the rapidity with which emergency missions have been organized and in the absence of any substantial criticism of operations over the past fifteen years.

3. In the light of the foregoing frame of reference, I believe that the suggested functions of the Military Adviser would in several aspects duplicate or conflict with established administrative practices and procedures and undoubtedly lead to confusion in the operational responsibilities. Accordingly, I would suggest a definition of the functions of the Military Adviser which would permit him to devote his full attention to military questions without possible conflict with the established political, administrative or financial responsibilities.

.../...
4. I am attaching for your consideration a revision of the statement which incorporates my suggestions in this respect. I have attempted to combine like functions and responsibilities and to eliminate duplication in wording or authority which is obviously inherent in the responsibility itself, such as "approving all personnel posted to the Military Adviser's Staff," etc. My sequence, therefore, is not the same as in Major-General Ridgway's paper.
Functions of the Military Adviser to the Secretary-General

The Military Adviser is the principal adviser on military matters to the Secretary-General, to Under-Secretaries who have special responsibilities assigned to them by the Secretary-General, and to the departments of the United Nations Secretariat concerned. In performance of these functions of advising and assisting, subject to the authority and direction of the Secretary-General, the Military Adviser will:

1. Serve as adviser and head of military adviser staff.

2. Advise on stand-by forces.
   a. Provide military guidance for departments of the Secretariat with regard to the development and co-ordination of peace-keeping activities involving the use of military forces.
   b. Advise the Secretariat on the force structure of UN military forces.
   c. Develop training standards and principles of military education for forces participating in UN military operations.

3. For UN military forces:
   a. Prepare plans, orders and instructions for overall military operations.
   b. Advise the Secretary-General and responsible Secretariat officials on logistical plans and requirements.
   c. Review the military plans and programmes of commanders.
   d. Establish standard standing operating procedures for military operations, in consultation and agreement with the offices of the Controller and General Services insofar as administrative and financial matters are concerned.

4. Perform such duties as the Secretary-General may prescribe.
TO: The Secretary-General

THROUGH: Bruce H. Turner, Controller

FROM: Bruce H. Turner, Controller

SUBJECT: Functions of the Military Adviser

Date: 27 December 1963

FILE NO.: 

1. Referring to your memorandum of 19 December 1963 on the above subject, I wish to associate myself with Mr. Vaughan's response as set forth in his memorandum dated 26 December. In general I feel it would be unwise for a number of reasons, to attempt too detailed and specific a formulation. In this connection, I am thinking as much of the risk of external as well as of internal misunderstandings.

2. While I see no basic objection to the content of Mr. Vaughan's suggested re-draft, I venture to offer, for the purposes of your further consideration of a suitable formulation, the attached admittedly "unpolished" text which is intended to differ from Mr. Vaughan's in form rather than in substance.

3. I am forwarding copies to Dr. UN Secretariat, Mr. Narasimhan and Mr. Vaughan.
The Military Adviser is the principal adviser on military matters to the Secretary-General, to Under-Secretaries who have special responsibilities assigned to them by the Secretary-General, and to the departments of the United Nations Secretariat concerned. In performance of these advisory functions the Military Adviser will, subject to the authority and direction of the Secretary-General, serve as head of military adviser staff. In this capacity he will be required:

1. To review for the Secretary-General in consultation with the Principal adviser or advisers directly concerned, the operational plans and programmes of Force Commanders with a view to appraising their military effectiveness and conformity to United Nations purposes and objectives and to preparing, for the Secretary-General’s issuance, such orders or instructions in regard thereto as may be deemed necessary.

2. To advise and assist the Secretary-General and/or appropriate Secretariat officials on the logistical and related plans and requirements called for in support of particular operations.

3. To develop, in the light of experience and in agreement with the Offices of the Controller and of General Services insofar as administrative and financial matters are concerned, standard operating procedures for the organization and conduct of United Nations military missions.

4. To advise on stand-by forces, including matters pertaining to force structure and the development of suitable training standards and facilities.

5. Generally to provide military guidance and expertise with regard to the initiation, direction and coordination of United Nations peace-keeping activities involving the use of military forces.

6. To perform such other duties as the Secretary-General may from time-to-time prescribe.