



I would like to remind that among CIS countries Ukraine was the first signatory of the program "Partnership for Peace" with NATO and the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation with EC, it became a Party to the Conference on Pact of Stability in Europe and has put forward initiatives as to the strengthening of security and cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe and Black Sea region.

However, it should be acknowledged, that neither the program "Partnership for Peace" nor any other undertaken measures, despite all their positive features, still ensure reliable safeguards of security for the States concerned.

In the prevailing situation, it seems reasonable to concentrate attention on a detailed examination of the issue of building up an all-European architecture of security, which would involve all structures existing in this field such as CSCE, North Atlantic Cooperation Council, NATO, WEU. And, of course, States of the former USSR should have appropriate place in this architecture. Ukraine advocates exactly such an approach, i.e. strengthening partnership and cooperation in an all-European dimension, instead of searching for new geometrical figures which, in fact, would secure division of small as it is, in respect of global scale, European continent.

We feel that the strengthening of stability and security in all-European dimension can and shall also be supplemented by regional actions which would organically integrate in the whole process of building confidence and constructive cooperation.

When seeking for such actions Ukraine offered the initiative concerning confidence-building measures in the Black Sea. This region is extremely important for us as a crossroad between Europe and Asia, North and South. Elaboration and implementation of specific confidence-building measures in military and political field in the Black Sea would promote good neighbourly relations, political and economic co-operation of Black Sea countries.

Multilateral consultations on these issues have already begun. Ukraine proceeds from the fact that all Black Sea countries may participate in confidence-building measures.

We believe that the measures themselves should be identified in a politically binding document which would regulate naval activities on the Black Sea, establish a procedure for exchanging appropriate information and promote development of contacts between naval forces of States Parties.

**Mr. President,**

The principle of collective actions aimed at

maintaining peace under appropriate international control shall be one of the important conditions of the operation of an all-European security system, because, at the present stage, national and international security is threatened not so much by the possibility of military aggression from outside as by local and regional conflicts provoked by domestic reasons (economic, ethnic, religious and others) and especially the possibility of their spillover and involvement of neighbouring countries therein. It requires timely, preventive actions.

Assessing recent developments in the world, we have to recognize that, on the whole, preventive diplomacy is coming to the foreground both in UN activities aimed at securing, restoring and strengthening peace and in the activities, say, of the CSCE. In this context I would like to express gratitude to Mr. Boutros-Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary General, for his significant personal contribution to the development of the fundamentals of this extremely important field of international activities.

We highly appreciate UN peacekeeping effort aimed at settling regional conflicts and we realize that such activities require intensive political, physical and financial support of UN Member-States. Unfortunately, the difficult economic situation of our State, not to mention unfounded, excessive contribution to the regular budget, prevents Ukraine from fully meeting its financial obligation to the UN. Nevertheless, we try to compensate that, at least partially, with our contribution to the peacekeeping forces.

Ukraine has already become one of the major contributors to UN forces and it is ready to continue cooperation in this field. We believe that essential conditions for such cooperation are the achievement of appropriate protection and security for the peacekeeping personnel. Just consider the sad victim reports. Throughout the whole history of UN operations, more than 1,000 peacekeepers were killed. In the territory of the former Yugoslavia, 9 Ukrainian servicemen gave their lives and over 30 persons were wounded. The problem of security for UN personnel proves to be increasingly acute every year. Upon sending its troops to Yugoslavia, Ukraine took the initiative to develop an international convention on UN peacekeepers' protection by submitting a draft of this document. And we are hopefully awaiting the completion of the work therein yet during the current session.

Developments in former Yugoslavia and Somalia compel us to think about the problems

of the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations. The fact that the UN, even using the potential of such a powerful organization as NATO, failed to put out the fire of the bloody conflict in these countries obviously requires a more thorough examination and a closer definition of principles of UN peacekeeping operations, first and foremost, such as a precise mandate, a link with negotiating process, neutrality of the UN contingent, reasons for coercive actions, conception of multinational forces and so on.

Today, with the transition to a multipolar world it has become evident that any country, whatever powerful economic or military potential it has, can no longer pretend to be an effective guarantor of peace by drawing exclusively on its strength. And this would be incompatible with those generally recognized rules and principles of behaviour which prevail throughout the world. Unfortunately, the UN proved to be not completely ready to assume this important role.

Operations become increasingly more expensive and bulky. During only the last 4 years, UN expenses for these purposes have increased from 350 million to 2.8 billion dollars, which aggravated chronic financial problems. In the opinion of the world community, peacekeeping operations lost their extraordinary element and turned to be routine and, in addition, not always successful emergency actions. But the main reason for the crisis in UN peacekeeping effort proved to be changes in conditions and circumstances of conflicts.

Classical peacekeeping operations started after the "hot" phase concluded, and that is why they were, in fact, quite effective means of conflict prevention. At the present, in many cases, the UN intervenes, when the battle is at its height, which changes the principles of the use of peacekeeping forces. The Blue Helmets are not always and not by all conflicting parties considered as welcome guests. That is why, in comparison with the past, the UN forces' mandate has become considerably wider. In some cases, they were given the right to use all available weapons and not only in self-defence. The parties involved in conflicts often are not able to provide adequate conditions for UN forces to accomplish their peace-making mission because a distinctive attribute of current conflicts consists of the phenomenon of "field commanders", who obey no one,