So as to effectively gauge the outcome of missions accomplished by United Nation to-date, it would be appropriate to state that ever since its inception in 1945 the United Nations has proved to be a unique experiment for the world community of nations. Born as an ‘embodiment of the will of the peoples of the world’, the United Nations has served as a repository of collective wisdom and a platform for joint action for a better, safer, healthier and more prosperous existence. As a founder member of the United Nations, India has been a firm supporter of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and has made significant contributions to the furtherance and implementation of it noble aims as well as to the evolution and functioning of its various special programs. She stood at the forefront during the United Nation’s tumultuous years of struggle against colonialism and apartheid, its struggle towards global disarmament and towards the creation of a more equitable international economic order. Time and again, India has placed at risk the lives of its soldiers in peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations not for any strategic gain but in the service of an ideal. India’s ideal was, and remains, strengthening the world body and international peace and security.

India’s participation in United Nations Peacekeeping spans a period of more than fifty five years covering 43 missions in which over eighty five thousand Indian soldiers served and endured hardships in far-off lands of the world to bring peace, hope and cheer to the victims of violence. Indian troops have taken part in some of the most difficult operations and have suffered casualties in the service of the United Nation. Professional excellence of the Indian troops has drawn universal admiration. Its most significant contribution has been to peace and stability in Africa and Asia. It has demonstrated its unique capacity to sustain large troop commitments over prolonged periods. The range of sensitive peacekeeping operations India has participated in is a testimony to India’s commitment to this important activity of the United Nation. As of 30th June 2007, India is ranked as the third largest troops contributor to the United Nations.

Although, 63 missions have been launched world over under the aegis of UNO but the ultimate mission of achieving ‘Peace and Tranquility’ in the world still remains unaccomplished. This is based on the fact that UNO may have been able to wade off some of the conflicts but full scale eradication has not been achieved. UNO needs the services of the countries of the world; more so of India again and again with same vigor and gusto as has been to date ever since Indian first representation ever since 1950 in Korea. The people of this world should keep in mind the future and not remain happy with the limited achievements. The nations and the people must endeavor to further resolve their differences mutually and try extremely hard not to create such situations where intervention and services of the UNO are asked again and again.

Needful to state that Peacekeeping is indeed an extra ordinary art that calls for the use of the military not to wage war between belligerents, but to ensure maintenance of cease-fire. It is also to provide a measure of stability in the area of conflict for which political negotiations have not fully progressed. Peacekeeping operations are thus special operations requiring a doctrine and special techniques from synthesis of research and experience.
The Indian Soldiers have proved their capabilities not only on the battle fronts of Indian borders but also for the assigned tasks/missions on the foreign soil. Total dedication, impartial behaviour and humanitarian approach of the Indian peacekeepers has brought them recognition and appreciation from every corner of the world. As a result of an optimistic outlook, the humanitarian approach towards the assigned mission and as a result of the outcome of social activities carried out on the foreign soil, the Indian Soldiers have always been held in high esteem by the local inhabitants of the areas of operations.

Letters of appreciations, both by the military and non-military personnel, civil dignitaries, government authorities and the UN representatives are well on record. These act as a testimony to the good deeds performed by the Indian Army for the cause of maintaining Peace on foreign lands and for having rendered their Selfless Services. Keeping in mind these achievements, some of the units while abroad and also on their return to India have also been honoured by way of grant of various awards and decorations to them. Some of these achievements, appreciations and accolades received are endorsed as records of their testimony, which is indeed a matter of great pride for every Indian Soldier and Indian citizen.

It was the first opportunity after Indian Independence in 1947, for the newly raised Indian Armed Force elements to participate in any overseas operations. Keeping in mind the strong belief of the Indians to adhere to the principles of Panchsheel and strive for the cause of Universal Peace, the unarmed Indian soldiers performed their duties with total dedication and rendered selfless services in Korea which made them win the hearts of the Korean people in particular and the people of the world in general. As a token of the honour bestowed on Indian Soldiers, the Korean people presented their flags and the troops were also awarded well decorated medals in recognition of their outstanding services in Korea.

KOREAN MEMORIES : REWARD OF APPRECIATION

THE GREAT KOREAN PEOPLE’S POLICE YOUTH CORPS FLAG
(PRESENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE OFFICER’S MESS)
The performance of soldier of 2 GUARD was indeed of a very high order. This would be evident from the fact that recognition was given at Hanoi even for the outstanding service rendered by one of its soldier i.e. Guardsman Rup Singh, who had impressed every one on the Canadian Remembrance Day services. The letter of appreciation is a tribute to the performance of Indian Army.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION: UNIC
INDO–CHINA, VIETNAM, LAOS & CAMBODIA

Given below is a reproduction of a letter received when Guardsman Rup Singh acted as Bugler in the CANADIAN Remembrance Day service.

HANOI
November 24, 1954

Dear Mr. Desai,

May I take this opportunity of saying how grateful I am to your military delegation for having made available the services of Guardsman Rup Singh as trumpeter at our, Remembrance Day Service.

The turn out and trumpeting of Guardsman Rup Singh was of the highest order, and without him the service would have lost much of its significance. I should therefore, be very glad if you would thank, in particular Major Michael and Guardsman Rup Singh for having assisted us.

Sd/- X X X X X X

Shri MJ Desai
Commissioner, Indian Delegation
International Communications for Supervision and control
HANOI
UNITED NATION OPERATION IN CONGO : ONUC

The operations in Congo indeed were of a great significance, more so, for the Indian Army which had made most valuable contributions. These included capture of weapons, vehicles and personal arms of the Gendarmerie. The Indian Army had to face great difficulties, yet the brave and determined soldiers carried out their assigned tasks with outstanding dedication to duty and a large number of them laid down their lives on the foreign soil. Many were awarded the honours and awards for their gallant actions. In recognition of these services of the Indian Army, words of appreciation were communicated and put on record by many senior military commanders and the civil dignities. A few examples given here under are testimony of the above facts.

LT VED PRAKASH TREHAN, MVC (POSTHUMOUS)
THE CONGO 20 DECEMBER 1962

On 20 December 1962 Lt V P Trehan was given the command of special patrol prior to an attack on an enemy position on the road junction. He was assigned the task of locating and drawing fire from this strongly held position. He was also told to take deceptive measures and mislead the enemy regarding direction of the Battalion attack. 100 yards from enemy position the patrol came under intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire. Realising that the patrol had been surrounded, he changed the enemy position with great determination and silenced them. He not only extricated his patrol but also fulfilled the task allotted to him. In the process he fell mortally wounded. A strange coincidence that Lt V P Trehan was born in Tangryika and he also died in AFRICA and awarded Maha Vir Chakra.

CAPTURED WEAPONS

Captured by 2 Pl A Coy at Lukuni Katanga (Belgian Congo) at dawn on 1st Jan 1963

Captured by RFN Nar Singh of D Coy at ELISABETH VILLE, KATANGA on 31st Dec 1962
### HONOURS AND AWARDS

1. MVC - 01
2. VrC - 01
3. SM - 03
4. VSM - 02
5. MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES - 03
6. COAS/ C-in-Cs COMMENDATION CARD - 03
7. OTHER FOREIGN AWARDS - 01

Captured Gendarmerie Vehicles, Arms and Katanga Flag
My dear Jetha,

I am writing to thank you very much for the able way you organised the 'Retreat'. I have seen quite a few of those in the past, but the one that we held here last Saturday is certainly one of the best. The credit for this goes to you and all the other officials who assisted you in your task.

Please convey my thanks to the personnel of the four Bands for a very good show, which was appreciated by many.

My dear Jetha,

I am writing to thank you for making your 'Pipe and Drums' and the RAJPUTANA Rifles Regimental Centre Brass Band available for 'Desert Retreat' on Saturday, 21st June 1962. Their performance was first class indeed, and was very much appreciated by one and all who attended the function.

Please convey my thanks to the personnel of the two Bands for their extremely good show.

Yours sincerely,

Lt Col PP SHINDE
Commanding Officer,
4 RAJPUTANA Rifles
ELISABETHVILLE.
MAJ GEN D PREM CHAND  
GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING  

DO NO DPC/143/KAT  
HQ KATANGA AREA (ONU)  
ELISABETHVILLE  

19 JANUARY 1963

My dear Faith,

With my admiration and gratitude for the magnificent manner in which you and your team have carried the torch along the road to KOLWEZI. From what I saw the day I was with you, I cannot add to the very high spirits of All Ranks, but perhaps a touch of warmer liquid might help to neutralise the after effects of the cold rain.

My greetings to All Ranks and my very best wishes for steady and clear drives along the fairway to KOLWEZI.

Yours Sincerely,

Prem Chand

Lt Col PP SHINDE  
Commanding Officer  
4 Rajputana Rifles
Dear Field Marshal,

On my departure from Elizabethville where I have been the United Nations Civilian Representative since November 1961, I am taking the liberty of writing to you personally about the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Gorkha Rifles.

Long before the December fighting in Elizabethville, this Battalion and its Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel SS MAITRA, were well known in the Congo. During the December fighting, the Battalion once more showed the highest discipline and courage and achieved all its objectives with skill and dispatch which commended universal admiration.

When the fighting was over, a new and very difficult phase in the UN operation began. Unavoidably a number of civilians had been caught in the battle areas and suffered considerably in one way or another. Even during the fighting the Gorkhas had shown the tireless leadership of their Colonel, by rescuing and helping very many civilians caught in the tribulations of war. They did this inspite of the fact that a large proportion of the civilian population had fired on them continually from private houses during the fighting. After the actual fighting had ceased the Gorkhas also played an important part in helping to restore electricity, water and the normal services of the city.

As a result of these activities, the Gorkhas and their Colonel have become very well known and admired in this city, even by those who were most bitterly opposed to the UN. When civilians need help from the UN, as they often do, the Gorkhas are the first troops, which they ask for. They have thus played an important part in bringing about a change of heart and new understanding of the UN operation among the population at large. Their great military virtues, combined with mercy and understanding have been an inspiration to watch, and I have felt myself very lucky, as an official of the UN, to have been associated with them during this time.

I have written this personal letter to you because I should like you to know how the civilian official feels about the officers and men of the Gorkhas Regiment, of which you are Colonel-in-Chief.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sd) xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
BIRAN URQUHART

Field Marshal Earl Slim,
KG, GCB, GCMG, GBE, DSO, MC
12 More’s Garden
Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, LONDON S W 3, England
UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

The role of Indian peacekeepers to the mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea has indeed been laudable. In addition to their contributions in support of the peace process, the Indian contingent also adhered to the beliefs and directions of the then UN Secretary General Boutras Boutras Ghali who stressed that ‘UN Peace keepers should undertake Humanitarian Relief Missions while conducting peace keeping operations’. Indian Army indeed did a marvelous job by making provisions for basic amenities to poor people Indian Army indeed did a marvelous job by making provisions for basic amenities to poor people of the country which included clean drinking water, repair and construction of schools, enhancing computer literacy, imparting health education and medical care to the poor and needy displaced people. The appreciation and good will of the people from all walks of life are on record.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA

Jordana Diengdoh-Pavel(Mrs.)

No.Add/156/1/00

12 June, 2002

Dear Col. Sankar,

I would like to thank you and all your officers and staff who have contributed to make our visit successful. The discipline and high standard of professionalism that we have seen during the visit is not only appreciated by us but also by other Heads of Missions based in Addis Ababa who have received briefings and assistance from your Battalion. During my courtesy call on Special Representative of the Secretary General to the UN, Mr. Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, on 6 June, 2002, he spoke highly of the contribution made by the Indian Contingent not only in terms of UNMEE’s activities but also on humanitarian services. This has endeared the Indian Contingent to the local communities.

2. This note is to thank you and all concerned for having made our trip most enjoyable and fruitful.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Jordan Diengdoh-Pavel]

Colonel G. Sankar,  
Commanding Officer,  
Indian Battalion,  
UNMEE,  
ADI GRAT
LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM
UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Dear General,

Upon return of the Security Council’s recent mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia, I should like, on behalf of all of the members of the Mission, to convey to you, and through you to your colleagues, my sincere gratitude for the very informative briefing you provided to the members of the mission upon arrival, as well as the assistance and support that your colleagues provided to us during our visit. As you can see from the attached report of the Mission, which I presented to the Security Council on 6 March 2002, the Mission deeply appreciated the complexity and importance of the role played by UNMEE in support of the peace process in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation for the hospitality that has been accorded to our mission by the contingent of the Indian Battalion at Fort Dunne.

All good wishes for continued success in your endeavours.

Ole Peter Kolby
President of the Security Council and
Head of the Security Council Mission to
Eritrea and Ethiopia

Major General Patrick Cammaert
UNMEE Force Commander
Addis Ababa
LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, ITALY

UNITED NATIONS

MISSION IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

Reference: MP-COY: 20/03/2002 - No.42/6

TO: Chief Military LO
   (Col. Shahin CHWDHURY)
   CENTRAL SECTOR COMMANDER
   (Col. Gadamsetty SANKAR)

THROUGH: CHIEF G1 (Col. Andrew NYANDONG)

INFO: Senior Sector UNMO
      (Lt. Col. Julius MBILINYI)

SND COMMANDER INDBAT
   (Maj. Pranav KUMAR)

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

This correspondence is in reference to the visit of the MP Carabinieri team and myself that visited Adigrat on the 1st and 2nd of March 2002.

I would like to place on record the warm hospitality and cooperation we enjoyed from Lt. Col. Julius MBILINYI, SSUNMO and Maj. Pranav KUMAR, Second-in-Command of INDBAT and the able manner they supported and contributed to the success of our visit to their Sector.

The operational brief that they gave was very professional and has helped us to gain a better insight into the situation in Central Sector. This is also very highly appreciated.

I would therefore like to express my personal commendation and would like that this is conveyed to the senior officers.

Respectfully submitted.

MP Coy Commander
Maj. Franco GIANDINOTO
APPRECIATION FROM SENA FE CIVIL HOSPITAL

TO COMMANDER UN INDIAN CONTINGENT ERITREA

On behalf of the Ministry of Health Senafe Hospital. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UN Indian Contingent for their whole hearted involvement and assistance in shifting and installing one container for Operation theatre Senafe Hospital.

I personally expressed my deepest congratulation to Major Divakara Naidu SK and Major Bikramdeep Singh for their valuable contribution.

Sincerely,
Senafe Hospital

17/10/2001
LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, ADIGRAT

ADIGRAT CITY COUNCIL

21 Dec 2001

INDBATT IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Sir,

1. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks on behalf of City Council, local administration and people of Adigrat for your kind co-operation in developmental activities and humanitarian assistance.

2. I would like to put on the record that your assistance in Medical Camps, establishing water point to provide sweet drinking water and computer classes has provided a sigh of relief in ongoing peace process of UNMEE.

3. The Cultural exchange by INDBATT has further strengthened the bondage between the locals and INDBATT in Central Sector.

4. I wish to bring out your assistance in fulfilling by giving teaching materials for the schools in Adigrat and health centre in Adigrat.

5. I wish a very best for your Mission and noble cause. The City council and people in your area of responsibility seek more of such humanitarian assistance and co-operation in future to facilitate rehabilitation of IDPs in on going peace process of UNMEE.

6. Thanking you in anticipation.

VICTORY TO MASSES

(Mr. Tesfay G. Kiros)
Mayor
ADIGRAT
LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM EASTERN ZONE TIGRAY ADMINISTRATION : ETHIOPIA

Subject- letter of acknowledgement

In behalf of the civil administration of the zone, different social and economic sectors, and particularly to those war affected homeless poor and displaced people, the zonal administration council would like to extend its sincere thanks to the UN-delegates/INDBATT/ to your concern and invaluable support in humanitarian assistance, social services and developmental activities especially to the war affected local communities.

Besides the peace keeping process and hopefully to abort the dispute permanently, your assistance in medical help (in preventive and curative health care deliveries including provision of essential drugs) in our Mobil clinics and at outreach bases through your health professionals, provision of portable water supplies has significant contribution to alleviate health and health related problems to the IDPs and war affected local communities.

Further more, I would like to give an emphasis and express my sincere thanks to your unreserved help and efforts of your plans to strengthen and improve quality of learning-teaching process in the department of education by rehabilitating damaged schools and expanding existing ones, equipping internal facilities & teaching materials, and your vehicle support to distribute materials to schools of different localities is much appreciable.

However, as the conflict has resulted in massive destruction of infrastructures and psycho-social and economic instabilities, particularly in the areas of your responsibilities/war affected local communities more of your humanitarian assistance and psycho-social and economic support would have paramount importance and facilitate in the overall rehabilitation & peace process and stability of the internally displaced people.

I thank you for all Your Cooperation

Sheaer Gebrekristos
Head, eastern zone administration.
RECOGNITION OF INDIAN ARMY’S EFFORTS
BY
FORCE COMMANDER

UNMEE
FORCE COMMANDER’S COMMENDATION
AWARDED TO
13 MARATHA LPI BN JP (Ind Opr Ex 15 SARRIKA Ex 61 SWR
Regt & Parachute Ex Delhi, 44 Regt, Corps of Signals, Force G W39 (Ind Opr))

In Recognition of the Unit’s Exemplary Performance and Contribution
To Peace Keeping Which is Hereby Formally Recognised

Given under my hand

This 13 day June 1992

Patrick C. Cammaert
Major General
Force Commander