

They have been warmly welcomed by the countries in which they are located - Saudi Arabia and Bahrain - and by the countries providing the forces with whom they will work most closely - the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Government recently received an additional request from the Government of the United Kingdom for more medical personnel.

After carefully considering the circumstances in the area, and the availability of military medical personnel in New Zealand, the Government decided to accede to this request.

About 20 medical personnel, from all three armed services, will be made available to work with British units in the Gulf area.

Further details will be announced by the Government when they are confirmed.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, New Zealand has a long and honourable tradition of contributing to peace keeping forces.

It is a tradition that has been upheld by successive Governments, and will be upheld by the present Government.

The Government is aware that some New Zealanders believe that this country should contribute only to a peace keeping force.