

the members of the United Nations have assumed by their collective decisions. It is not our task here to call into question these decisions but to accept them and to ensure that they are soundly carried out; that, in meeting its duties and challenges, the United Nations does not damage its efforts by poor administration and the hasty and ill-considered expenditure of funds.

If there is one political consideration which all of us here must bear in mind, it is that, without sound administration and sound financing, this international instrument which we have built up over the years, will be destroyed just as surely as if a conscious political decision were taken to do so. It would perhaps be naïve to attempt to exclude all political considerations from our work, for they are inherent in the attitudes expressed on administrative principles. But I hope nonetheless that in our work we will always recall our prime purpose for being here, and that is to see that decisions taken by competent bodies elsewhere are not frustrated by bickering and disarray on technical matters and excuses of a budgetary nature which become, in fact, political decisions not to do, or to do, improperly what has already been decided in the political arena.

One principle especially must guide us throughout our work. It is the principle of collective responsibility so clearly spelled out in the first two articles of the Charter. This is an organization of independent and sovereign states which gather here in sovereign equality. For the privileges we derive from this organization we must also assume the obligations of membership. Sir, my delegation will be motivated by this overriding consideration in all its work here; the collective character of our organization requires that we undertake to abide by the decisions of the appropriate stipulated in the Charter for approving financial measures.

At the same time, as the chairman of the Canadian delegation said in the general debate last week: Canada has the greatest understanding for those who would pay but cannot; we have no sympathy for the few who can pay but will not. The proposals which we may make and the measures which we will support to achieve the orderly financing of all UN undertakings will be based upon this important consideration.

We would be deluding ourselves if we comforted ourselves with the ... that by setting up special accounts for special purposes that we are somehow isolating the other activities of the organization from whatever financial consequences may arise from poor records of payments into these special accounts. The simplest proof that this is a delusion is that the Working Capital Fund, which was set up to deal with the question of late payment of contributions, is now depleted because of the calls upon it which have been made, quite properly, to finance peace-keeping operations. This situation has cancelled out the Working Capital Fund as a source of cash to fill the gap left by late payments. This is only one indication that the finances of the United Nations cannot be conveniently compartmentalized and parts of it forgotten or ignored. Apart from the practical links which exist between all expenditures of the United Nations, there is the overall consideration that all the work of the United Nations suffers if part of its undertakings collapse through financial indifference.

We have seen during the past few years and especially in the last few months that the Secretary-General has had to avail himself of his borrowing powers and have recourse to large-scale advances from the reserves of UNICEF, the Special Fund and other sources. I do not need to elaborate on how undesirable this procedure is. But, one thing is certain, the United Nations must not