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PEACEKEEPING

Text of Statement to be made in the General Assembly by the Canadian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, on the question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (Item 37) on December 13, 1967

Mr. President,

The complexity of peacekeeping operations, the widely differing points of view on all aspects of the question, the hopes and fears of Member States for the effectiveness of this organization in the pursuit of its primary purpose - the maintenance of international peace and security - have been abundantly reflected again this year in the deliberations on this subject in the Special Political Committee. Much comment has focussed on the, at times, painfully slow progress we have made in our efforts towards greater understanding of the constitutional issues as well as towards the elaboration of more reliable and equitable methods of financing and improving preparations for peacekeeping. As I had the occasion to remark in the Special Political Committee, however, the pace of our progress should cause no surprise. The United Nations even now has not fully recovered from the Article 19 crisis of 1964-65. Suspicions and attitudes developed during that time have not entirely abated. The consensus of the General Assembly on September 1, 1965, an understanding which enabled the Assembly to resume its normal activities, remains only partially implemented. A deficit in the United Nations financial accounts remains - a legacy of that difficult period when confrontation, not cooperation, was the dominant theme.

Turning now, Mr. President, to the present situation, it is true, I believe, that there have been indications over the past year of some willingness to compromise, of some movement towards more flexible positions on the part of different Member States. It seems to us that the consensus on a special scale of financing almost reached in the Committee of 33 last spring, and the endorsement of a study of peacekeeping in the resolution now before us may be certain, albeit faint, signs of this trend. We earnestly trust that this is so. In that case, the efforts of Canada and the other co-sponsors of Resolution L.130/Rev.4 at the 21st Session of the General Assembly were not in vain. On the contrary, we may consider that those efforts, combined with the endeavours on the part of the distinguished Foreign Minister of Ireland and his supporters,