



CANADA

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CANADA HELPS BREAK UN FINANCIAL DEADLOCK

The following statement was made to the House of Commons on June 21 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin:

...Members of the House will be aware that, in spite of the efforts of the United Nations Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations, no agreement has been reached at the United Nations on methods to discharge the accumulated financial obligations occasioned by the refusal of some member states to pay their assessments for the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Operation in the Congo. The total debt is something over \$100 million.

In the hope that, by constructive action, the present deadlock might be broken, a number of governments are today announcing pledges of voluntary and unconditional contributions to help the United Nations out of its present financial difficulties, and they have so informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Canadian Government has participated in the consultations which led to this action, and I now wish to associate Canada with it. The Government has decided, subject to approval by Parliament, to make a similar pledge in the amount of \$4 million. I have instructed our Permanent Representative to the United Nations to convey this decision to the Secretary-General.... I also hope to see the Secretary-General later today or tomorrow to discuss this and other matters.

The Canadian Government's pledge is made without prejudice to our support for the policy of collective financial responsibility for duly authorized peace-keeping operations. Our understanding is that this pledge will form part of any formal agreement

for contributions to relieve the organization's indebtedness if and when such agreement is reached. I do not exclude the possibility that at a later stage it may become necessary for us to supplement this pledge.

I should like to make it clear that, in coming to this decision, the governments associated with this initiative have not underestimated the serious differences which have thus far defied solution. But we believe that, rather than let the United Nations founder on this issue of principle, the time has come for as many states as possible to make a joint effort to restore the solvency of the United Nations, to create conditions which will make it possible for the Assembly to meet normally next September, and to preserve the capacity of the United Nations to continue to perform its essential function in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The group of member states which have joined in this initiative today have traditionally been in the forefront of those which have come to the aid of the United Nations in times of stress. Obviously, we cannot, of ourselves, solve the problem. But we can give a lead, and this we have done in the hope and expectation that the action of these nations will persuade others to follow suit so that the United Nations will be restored to solvency by the time the next General Assembly convenes in September.

Mr. Martin later amplified his statement by pointing out that "this pledge is in addition to our present commitments". "It represents," he said, "a contribution which is related to the assessment that annually would be met by Canada and, likewise, by other countries which have joined in this initiative."