

Little progress has been made in resolving the financial problems of this organization. It may be that some governments are awaiting the outcome of the study of the Committee of Fourteen. This report is now before us, and I hope that those who have not contributed as yet will do so now.

However, perhaps even more important, in the long run, than the need to meet the financial deficit is the failure of the Committee we set up last year to come to grips with the task of completing its comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations. It is easy to explain away this failure as an after-effect of the crisis which seized the Assembly two sessions ago, but we have had a year to think things over. Surely the time has come to solve this problem.

There are a small number of members which do not share the view of the majority about the nature and value of the contribution the United Nations has made -- a contribution which it can continue to make -- through its peace-keeping activities. My Government believes that the views of this minority must be respected, even if we do not share their views. We appreciate that we may have to accept the limitations thus imposed, particularly with respect to the positions held by some of the great powers on the principle of collective financial responsibility. But even if these limitations are accepted, there remains much to be done. Let me suggest some examples of what the Canadian Delegation believes can be done.

First, we think that the time has come to respond to the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General in 1964 that studies should be made on the means of improving preparations for peace-keeping operations.

Secondly, we think that the time has come for the Security Council and its Military Staff Committee to re-examine the possibilities for negotiating agreements with member states for the provision of armed forces, assistance and facilities to be made available to the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Thirdly, we think that, without prejudice to any action which may be taken by the Security Council, member states should be encouraged to inform the Secretary-General of the kinds of forces or facilities they would be prepared to provide for duly authorized peace-keeping operations.

Fourthly, we have already agreed by a large majority in this Assembly that certain principles should govern the sharing of the costs of peace-keeping operations involving heavy expenditures. It should now be possible to convert these principles to uniformly applied practices.

We believe that measures of the kind that I have just described are in accordance with the Charter, and that they can be carried out without prejudice to the position of any individual member. My Government believes that action to maintain and strengthen the peace-keeping capacity of the United Nations will command the support of the majority of the membership, and we are ready, if that seems appropriate, to put forward specific proposals for consideration by the Assembly.