

Peace-Keeping

The following is a statement by the Representative of Canada, Mr. J. P. Goyer, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the Special Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on the Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, December 17, 1968 :

Canada's association with United Nations peacekeeping efforts reaches back to the early days of this organization. At San Francisco, the Canadian delegation was among those which held particularly high hopes for the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. We strove, along with other delegations, to ensure that the wartime alliance would provide a firm foundation for the building of a new world organization. The result of our efforts was the United Nations Charter, which reflects today, as it did in 1945, mankind's desire to live in a world of peace in which human energies can be fully devoted to political, economic and social development.

The United Nations has, over the years, made an increasingly significant contribution in all these areas, not least in the maintenance of peace and security, even though the methods chosen on an *ad hoc* basis have been somewhat different from those envisaged in the Charter. There is irony in the fact that, while we are exhorted in the Preamble of the Charter to "unite for peace", arrangements for keeping the peace under the auspices of this organization have often led to serious divisions within the membership. No useful purpose is served now by recalling how those divisions came about, or whether they could have been avoided. The historians of the world will provide the answers to these questions in good time.

What is of primary interest now, in the light of the complex and contentious history of United Nations peacekeeping efforts, is whether a point has at last been reached from which we can move ahead and enhance the peacekeeping capacity of this organization through accommodation of differing viewpoints. If this can be done, it will be not only a diplomatic achievement but, more important, a practical achievement of long-term value to the organization. And, needless to say, such progress should take place on the basis that it does not prejudice the different positions of member states on constitutional issues relating to the respective roles and responsibilities of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

Assessing Possibility of Progress

In looking at the situation in this way I am, of course, influenced by the experience of my delegation in recent months. As a member of the working group of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Canadian delegation