

PEACE-KEEPING -
A STANDING COMMITMENT FOR CANADA
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encourage this kind of development as well as to assist all interested states in meeting the practical problems which are inherent in it.

DEFENCE OF CANADIAN INITIATIVE

This Canadian initiative has been explained in some detail, particularly by the Prime Minister in his lecture at Carleton University on May 7. But it seems desirable to recall our basic position because of certain misunderstandings which have been voiced.

Articles have appeared in the Soviet press, for example, to the effect that the planned conference in Ottawa is some sort of NATO or imperialist plot intended to undermine the United Nations. The Soviet Government knows better than this, because we have carefully explained to them our aims and purposes. In its approach to the practical problems of peace keeping, Canada has no intention or desire to engage in the discussion of basic political and financial issues, which are properly subjects for discussion in the appropriate United Nations bodies. We are all too painfully aware of the political difficulty of having stand-by arrangements established through formal United Nations action.

Nor are we engaging ourselves in the long-standing debate at the United Nations about the provisions of the Charter which refer to the establishment of United Nations military forces. Our approach is entirely practical and designed to ease the technical difficulties of United Nations members which have, from time to time, been required to provide military contingents at the request of the United Nations.

It is my view that, even if the Charter system envisaged in Chapter VII were to be implemented as a result of agreement among the great powers (a development which I would welcome), national contingents would be required from various members of the United Nations to meet the varying political circumstances of specific situations. The countries providing such contingents would be faced with technical and practical questions such as those which Canada would make the subject of a working-level meeting.

Suggestions that Canada is acting in contradiction to the principles and aims of the Charter have no foundation. We expect that the United Nations may wish to call upon Canada, or upon the other countries, to engage in future peace-keeping operations. We see solid advantage in preparing ourselves for such

a request. We see advantage in sharing with like-minded states, who have faced the same problems, their experience in those matters. The advantage which we seek has no political implication other than to improve the capacity of member states to respond to United Nations needs and, in effect, to improve United Nations preparedness to engage in peace-keeping operations within its competence.

It has been said many times, but it bears repeating, that the United Nations cannot be expected to assume the whole responsibility for maintaining peace. The limitations, imposed mainly by the attitudes of member states, prevent the organization from being fully effective in this field and have obliged it to adopt improvisations such as those I have mentioned. Canada hopes that the day will come when the limitations will be removed and the organization will have full capacity to keep the peace, as it was intended to do. The responsibility for achieving this end rests on all member states. But until it is achieved, all member states are equally responsible for seeing that the politically possible steps are taken to enable the United Nations to discharge its established responsibility in this all-important area of activity.

B.C. WILDLIFE FILM ACCLAIMED

"Valley of the Swans", the latest film of the Department of Recreation and Conservation of the Government of British Columbia, promises to be the most successful production of the Photographic Branch so far. The 27-minute, 16-mm. colour movie took two years to complete.

The setting of "Valley of the Swans" is Creston Flats, an important stop-over for migratory birds on the Pacific "flyway", and one of the scenic areas in Kootenay district. The film contains several superb scenes of birds and animals in their natural habitats. Authorities of Canada's National Film Board have termed the film "a joy to behold".

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Canada's public libraries provided more than 15.5 million books in 1962, which circulated an average of 4.1 times each. This represented increases of 7.2 per cent in stock and 8.1 per cent in circulation, as against the figures for 1961. Public libraries also provided periodicals, pamphlets, films, filmstrips and other material for reference and home use. Full-time staff of libraries in 1962 was 2,962, almost a quarter of whom were professional librarians.
