

We have taken that action each time we have been asked to do so. Our general view has been that the UN is the most suitable international instrument to keep the peace. It may not be the best or most efficient. Regional organizations have a prior claim under the terms of the Charter itself, and the more disputes they can help to settle the less burdened will be the UN's agenda. Other disputes do not appear on the agenda because one or more of the parties are not UN members. The UN, however, is more likely to give a fair hearing to complaints and to provide a more generally acceptable procedure for saving face or gaining time. In Dag Hammarskjold's words: "The greatest need today is to blunt the edges of conflict among the nations, not to sharpen them. If properly used, the United Nations can serve a diplomacy of reconciliation better than other instruments available to the member states." Canadians like to think that they serve themselves when they serve the UN.

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