

de-escalation, a cease-fire and final settlement might be achieved. To these ends, we have been repeatedly in contact with both sides; we have discussed the role that the ICC might play; in April of last year, I put forward a four-stage plan for a return to the Geneva cease-fire arrangements, and in September, at the United Nations General Assembly, Canada joined with a number of other countries in calling for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam as a first step in the process of de-escalation. So far, neither we nor any other country has succeeded in finding a formula which was acceptable to the parties, but the search continues, and we shall not slacken our efforts.

But Vietnam is not the only area in which Canada is persistent in the cause of peace. In the UN, Canada's name is associated with the concept of peace-keeping. We gave impetus to the idea of UN peacekeeping forces and observer missions and we have participated in the operations which have been mounted. Peace-keeping is not a substitute for peace-making. But we believe that, in certain circumstances, peacekeeping activity has been indispensable in giving the parties to a dispute an opportunity to find a permanent solution. That is why the Canadian Government was so concerned in 1964 to urge the creation of UNFICYP in Cyprus. Without this force, large-scale hostilities might have resumed between the island's communities. That danger still exists. It is the Canadian view that the peacekeeping potential of the United Nations should be strengthened so that in the expectation of future crises the international community will be able to assist in defusing a conflict wherever it might arise.

There is a further way in which we are contributing to the drive for world peace. This is through collective-security arrangements. We are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This alliance has acted through the years to reduce the likelihood of aggression or miscalculation in Europe, has created a climate of relative stability in Central Europe and, increasingly, is providing a means by which the avenues to a peaceful and permanent settlement of East-West differences might be found. Canada has made its full contribution to the Atlantic alliance -- not only in military but also in political terms. We were the first country to suggest, for example, three years ago, that the alliance should re-examine its goals and future role. A fundamental review of strategy and political policy has now taken place which shows that the alliance is taking account of changing circumstances and adapting itself to meet the requirements of the 70s. While seeking with its allies a mutual and agreed reduction of forces between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, Canada will continue to make an appropriate contribution to the Atlantic alliance.

Membership in the Commonwealth is also a method of contributing to peace and international understanding. Originally an outgrowth of the Empire, the Commonwealth today is a very different association. It acts as a bridge -- albeit, as the Prime Minister has said, at times a somewhat unsteady bridge -- between the races of the world. It provides a forum in which potential conflict and antagonisms can be mitigated. Mutual confidence has been built up in relations that otherwise would have been tense and fraught with danger for international peace. In such issues as Rhodesia, Canada has worked within the Commonwealth framework to find common ground among countries whose basic aims may be similar but who differ in approach. Canada will continue to do what it can through the Commonwealth to strengthen the bridge between the races and between peoples in different regions with very different ways of life.