

The Congo mission has, however, raised in an acute form the main problems of peace-keeping by the United Nations; problems of political control, executive direction, financial means, and administrative co-ordination.

From the Congo, new experience - not yet fully assessed - has been added to that gained from earlier peace-keeping operations.

Canada does not share the doubts which have been raised about the nature and purposes of this United Nations action. We felt that intervention in the Congo was a response which this Organization had to make; a duty which it could not shirk.

We believe that this kind of important, if limited, peace-keeping activity has now moved beyond the stage of first experiment. It has become a practical necessity in the conduct of international affairs, and should be provided for as such.

A main task of our Organization, therefore, should be to strengthen and improve its capacity in this field; learning from the failures and successes of the past and seeking more effective ways to perform this function in the future.

There will, of course, always be some situations in which the UN should not be asked to intervene because failure is bound to be the result. There are tasks which are undesirable or impossible for the UN. But there will be other situations where its intervention will be important, and even essential, for keeping the peace; for preventing small conflicts developing into big ones. For these, there should be the advance international planning and preparation without which no national government would think of acting.

I am aware that a few members disagree categorically with this peace-keeping concept of the United Nations. They argue that most of the peace-keeping operations of the past have been illegal. They would have us believe that the most challenging phrases of the Charter preamble are hollow; that the first purpose enunciated in Article 1 has no practical application. Other members are cynical, doubtful or indifferent. Both categories reflect attitudes which have compelled the Organization to improvise in carrying out tasks which have been imposed on it by the decision of the Assembly or the Security Council. Those who are responsible for the necessity of such crash action are often the first to criticize when the results are disorderly, delayed or inadequate.