

I must, however, reiterate the support of the Canadian Government for the United Nations appeal for a cease-fire. This conflict is of grave concern to us and we would help in any way possible to bring about an end to the fighting and a final settlement of the problem. As you know, our Prime Minister offered his assistance in mediation in the early stages of the conflict.

★ I should like to mention also a current problem that will come before the General Assembly when it meets later this month. I refer to the question of responsibility, financial and otherwise, for United Nations peace keeping. We are, in a way, at a crossroads in the development of the organization. The peace-keeping responsibility of the United Nations must be affirmed. Its capacity to act must be reinforced and its method of acting subjected to the most careful examination to ensure that the rights, obligations and interests of all members and the correct functioning of the various constituent parts of the organization are respected.

★ We welcome the agreement reached on September 1 that the twentieth session of the General Assembly should proceed with its normal work and that the question of the applicability of Article 19 should not be raised with respect to the costs of the peace-keeping operations in the Congo and in Gaza. The financial difficulties of the organization must now be settled through voluntary contributions. Canada is one of a number of governments that have already made such contributions, and it is our hope that other member governments will now contribute their appropriate shares. The amounts are small. Surely the price is not too high to pay in order to put our collective house in order.

★ There remain to be settled the long-range questions of responsibility for initiating and financing future peace-keeping operations and of sharing equitably the costs of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East. Let me outline a few principles that I believe should explain our approach to these questions.

★ First, the maximum possible sharing of the cost, preferably by collective assessment, is the fairest and politically the most effective method of financing peace keeping. It should be the first method to be considered by the Security Council when the Council decided to authorize a new operation. Other financial arrangements may have to be worked out to fit different circumstances but it is essential to the proper functioning of the organization and to the maintenance and support for it in member countries that financial responsibility for projects of wide international benefit should be shared by the international community as a whole.

★ Second, if the Security Council is unable to act because of disagreement amongst the great powers, then the General Assembly must be allowed to recommend appropriate measures that governments can act on if they so desire. I shall be the first to agree that power and responsibility are linked under the Charter. But to go on from there to maintain that a single great power should be able to frustrate the will of the majority is surely a distortion of the Charter's spirit.