

It is my impression that although there was apparent a new note of concern in the approach of a large number of nations toward the concept of an armed stand-by peace force, awareness continues to grow amongst the United Nations membership, despite the opposition of the Soviet bloc, of the overriding need for machinery of some sort to permit quick and effective United Nations action to prevent the development of conditions which could result in armed conflict and the needless sacrifice of human lives. As I said, there seems to be developing in the General Assembly a growing general awareness that the United Nations must be provided with instrumentalities for quick and collective action that would prevent the outbreak or the extension of hostilities.

Just think of the great variety of agencies for the preservation of peace that the United Nations has had under its supervision, ranging from armed units, with respect to which I have spoken proudly as far as Canada is concerned, right down through observer groups to the mere token presence of the United Nations evidenced by only one person. It does seem to me that in this age, when we are likely to have indirect aggression, that the United Nations may be called upon to a greater degree to make provision for procedures of investigation. The Secretary-General is continuing his study and I can assure the House that Canada will be interested in his study and his further recommendations when we have some clear idea of what they may be.

I know that the Thirteenth Session of the General Assembly has been dubbed an unspectacular one but in that regard I make the observation that dramatic quality is not a criterion of success. It is also not the sole test of the success of a session of the General Assembly to ask the question, how many final agreements were reached on any particular set of subjects at a particular time? I was not able to attend the session of the General Assembly for longer than seven weeks but I did sense a spirit of compromise, a seeking for solutions, a climate of reconciliation of conflicting interests. True, as I have already stated, no final agreement was reached with respect to disarmament. No final agreement was reached with respect to Cyprus but this is an example of what I had in mind when I said that dramatic quality is not the criterion of success.

Undoubtedly the reasonable discussions that took place in the Thirteenth Session of the Assembly provided a climate - to use the word I invoked a moment ago - of compromise, that outside of the United Nations came to fruition. I am sure we all join in congratulating the statesmen of the United Kingdom, Turkey and Greece on the solution of that problem which was of special concern to the NATO allies.