

Third: We think that, without prejudice to any action which may be taken by the Security Council, member states should be encouraged to inform the Secretary-General of the kinds of forces or facilities they would be prepared to provide for duly authorized peacekeeping operations.

Fourth: We have already agreed by a large majority in the Assembly, that certain principles should govern the sharing of the costs of peacekeeping operations involving heavy expenditures. It should now be possible to convert these principles to uniformly applied practices.

Mr. President, we believe that measures of the kind that I have just described are in accordance with the Charter, and that they can be carried out without prejudice to the position of any individual member. The Canadian Delegation believes that action to maintain and strengthen the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations will command the support of the majority of the membership, and we are ready, if it seems appropriate, to put forward specific proposals for consideration by the Assembly.

Experience has shown that the burden of meeting peacekeeping commitments has fallen on a small number of member states and has tended to go on and on. Termination of the commitment to help becomes extremely difficult. The price of peacekeeping is small compared to the costs of war; I should have thought, therefore, that we would all be ready to pay our share of the cost. The risk of allowing existing operations to become ineffectual, or of failing to establish peacekeeping forces needed in the future, could well be high. If this is acknowledged, it surely follows that support for, and contributions to, these operations should be more widely spread. For the consequences of not supporting them might well turn out to impose heavier demands--and graver dangers--on the international community as a whole. In any event, I do not believe it is fair to expect that a minority of countries will continue to bear the burden indefinitely if the majority show little disposition to study the problems of peaceful settlement and to help share the costs of peacekeeping.

Related to the subject of peacekeeping is the question of financial solvency of the United Nations. Canada welcomed the proposal of France at the last session that we investigate the financial and administrative practices of the Organization. We have been glad to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts appointed to make this investigation. We regard the report of the Committee of Experts as a document of the highest importance, and we will press for the implementation of its recommendations, both by the United Nations itself and by all the other members of the United Nations system. We hope, in particular, that the recommendations will lead us to focus our efforts on essentials by the rigorous application of priorities, and to adjust rates of growth of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in accordance with the availability of resources, both human and financial.