

preparation within our own defence establishment. Canada maintains an infantry battalion and facilities for movement control and air transport which would enable us to place troops at the disposal of the United Nations on short notice anywhere in the world. We are constantly reviewing ways of improving these stand-by arrangements.

Not long ago, the Defence Ministers of the Scandinavian countries announced that they had made arrangements for the formation of a composite Nordic contingent. This move has been welcomed by Canada. We believe that it is a practical and praiseworthy approach to the problem of providing prompt assistance to the United Nations. It is a policy which can be pursued by other countries interested in bolstering the United Nations bulwark for peace. It paves the way for a process of informal cooperation to that end.

The technical problems of organizing the international military force are complex. There are language difficulties, differences of training and experience, a lack of standardization in equipment and operational methods. There is the need for coordination and control. There are other problems connected with the actual conduct of operations, some of them highly important in their political implication. The right to open fire, for example, has had to be carefully defined and applied. Because of the novelty of each situation and because of varying conditions, the United Nations has had to develop its techniques largely by trial and error.

Much of the responsibility for day-to-day operation rests with the Secretariat. Over the years, these international civil servants, acting under the leadership of the Secretary-General, have worked tirelessly to evolve methods which reflect a consensus of viewpoint in the United Nations membership. Gradually, an accepted practice is being established. But in order to make adequate preparation, the Secretariat could benefit from having