

This means that a country like Canada will have to consider very seriously whether the contribution we are at present making overseas to NATO is the best use of our resources for the defence of peace. It is not a matter of defaulting on our obligation to contribute to collective defence. It is merely a matter of how best we can continue to do it as conditions change. It is always easy - and therefore tempting - to follow the beaten path, even when it is not leading us anywhere in particular. But, I should add, before we abandon that path, we had better be reasonably certain that the new route is a better way of reaching the goal.

Next, there is the United Nations, full support of which, as I have been saying for 20 years, is a basic foundation of our foreign policy.

I still believe this, but I think the time has come - especially in the light of the current crisis in the Assembly - to have a long, hard look at the organization.

It has changed in 20 years as much as has the Commonwealth. It is no longer dominated by Western Europe and the Western Hemisphere, with a few Communist states raising the devil at every opportunity. The Communists are less obstreperous and the domination through numbers is becoming more and more African and Asian.

We have to re-examine the Charter in the light of this change and of the new world of emerging peoples who do not necessarily believe in either Communist ideology or in Parliamentary democracy.

For instance, when the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. confront each other in New York, on the problem of no-payment-no-vote, the majority of UN members are now not impressed by either side.

Furthermore, if we solve this particular financial problem without facing up to bigger issues, the solution would not amount to much more than papering over cracks.

What we shall soon have to decide is whether the UN is to become merely a social, humanitarian, and assistance organization, with political and security problems only for debate, not resolution. Or whether, by revising the Charter or by agreement between the more important members, the peace-keeping functions of the United Nations can be made reasonably effective. The time of decision is approaching.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for a limited group of middle powers, of which Canada has been in the forefront, to carry the burden of serving in peace-keeping forces while others of greater resources and power not only refuse to pay their share of the cost but insist that the operation itself is illegal under the Charter.