

them under control of that organization. The nature of the tasks that the United Nations is given often adds to this difficulty, for these are by no means conventional military tasks but rather a new form of military activity requiring the greatest restraint, fortitude and understanding, both from the soldiers themselves and often from the people in their home countries as well. Their role may often give rise to questions which create anxiety for their families and political difficulties for the government which has made them available. In this context, may I express my special appreciation of the understanding and active support which the Government of Canada, and particularly the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, have given to the United Nations in the Cyprus operation.

Such problems require that the support and understanding of the government be matched by the responsibility and restraint of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Force Commander and others who exercise authority over United Nations forces. I hope that my presence here and my words on this occasion may strengthen this relationship, upon which so much depends.

In the light of what I have just said, it seems appropriate that I should talk today about this aspect of the United Nations work and about some of the problems which now face us. The situation in Cyprus is of great concern at this time and provides an example of a problem of unique difficulty, with which the United Nations has been asked to deal because it has defied all attempts at solution outside the framework of the United Nations. It is a problem in which human lives are being lost almost daily. It is a problem in which the world has a vital interest, since the effects of a total breakdown in Cyprus will be felt far beyond the shores of the island and could all too easily lead to a far wider and more lethal conflict. It is, finally, a problem on which there is general agreement on one point only among the parties concerned - namely, the imperative necessity of a peaceful solution.

I will not discuss here the historical details of the conflict in Cyprus. It is a complicated story and one which the United Nations Mediator, Ambassador Tuomioja, is at the present time seeking to unravel with a view to finding a solution with the co-operation of all the parties concerned. Meanwhile the main task of the United Nations is, through its Peace-Keeping Force in the island, to try to prevent a recurrence of fighting, to restore and maintain law and order, to promote a return to normal conditions and to provide an atmosphere in which a negotiated solution may be feasible. The United Nations Force, consisting presently of some 7,000 men from seven countries, has now been operating in Cyprus for nearly two months. It must be admitted without any discredit to the Force, which is performing magnificently, that at present it is still far from achieving all of its aims, although it has already done much to control and regulate incidents and to prevent the spread of violence or the recurrence of large-scale fighting, and it continues to carry out its duties with increasing self-confidence and effectiveness.

The Cyprus operation differs from previous United Nations peace-keeping operations in one highly significant way. Although the United Nations is present in Cyprus in the context of the potential threat to international peace and security which the consequences of strife in the island present, it is also specifically required to deal with intercommunal strife. This means that in Cyprus the United Nations is for the first time dealing directly with forces inside a state and with conflicts between sectors of the population of that state. In the Middle East, the United Nations Emergency Force polices the frontier between Israel and the United Arab Republic, but has no responsibilities vis-à-vis the population on either side of the frontier. In the Congo, the main aim of the United Nations Force has been to protect the territorial integrity of the Congo and to assist the government in the maintenance of law and order and the protection of human lives and property. As the situation in the Congo developed, its mandate was strengthened by the Security Council with regard to the situations in which ultimately force could be used. In Cyprus the United Nations has to come to grips with the disruptions of day-to-day life due to the conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, and it must do this in such a way as not to prejudice