

Cyprus attained independence as a consequence of an international agreement reached outside the United Nations, but under the impetus of resolutions adopted in the General Assembly. That earlier action of mobilizing opinion in favour of an agreed solution forms a background for current United Nations efforts to preserve the peace in Cyprus.

This United Nations responsibility for the security and welfare of small states is a cardinal reason for keeping the United Nations in effective being -- both as a peace keeper and as a catalyst for economic, social and humanitarian causes.

Financing

It is not sufficient to pay lip service to this aim. The United Nations can have no real meaning in international affairs unless the many words spoken within its halls and on other public platforms are translated into deeds. At the present time, the most pressing practical requirement is to ensure that the organization has adequate funds for its many activities. Nowhere is the need more urgent than in the field of peace keeping.

For many years, Canada has been striving to promote sound administrative and budgetary methods in the United Nations, including the Specialized Agencies. We were instrumental in recent years in bringing about the establishment of the Working Group of Twenty-one on United Nations Finances in the field of peace keeping. The Canadian position has consistently been based on a conviction that financial contribution to support United Nations action must be shared by all members, great and small. Just as peace is indivisible, so is the financial responsibility for peace keeping. Political decisions designed to preserve security and stability must be backed by sound proposals for sharing the costs.

This is a position of principle which Canada has reiterated year after year. But we have not been so rigid in our belief in that principle as to blind us to practical needs in urgent circumstances. This is why we have supported ad hoc arrangements for financing operations in the Middle East, in the Congo, in West New Guinea. Throughout, however, we have continued to insist that these ad hoc arrangements -- never entirely satisfactory -- must not prejudice long-term financing arrangements which can form the basis for solid planning for peace, both by the Secretariat and by contributing governments. This is the basis of our approach to the financing of a Cyprus operation. We are acutely conscious that steps taken in the emergency situation now prevalent in that island may affect the attitude of member states toward the financing of peace keeping generally. They could influence the future deliberations of the Working Group of Twenty-one. They may even be seized upon by some as a further means of avoiding the Charter responsibility for sharing expenses of the organization -- a responsibility which has been reinforced by the 1962 advisory opinion of the International Court.

It is particularly important to keep these financial considerations in mind because this year Article 19, concerning the loss of vote in the Assembly, could become operative in relation to important members of the organization.