

international community did not permit them to lead to war -- and because there were mechanisms by which the international community was able to insulate such situations against the hazards of escalation and to bring them within the ambit of peaceful resolution.

* That, as I see it, is the essence of the conception of peace keeping as it has evolved within the framework of the United Nations. I do not think there can be any doubt about the immense importance of that idea in a world in which instability and insecurity are still prevalent. Nevertheless the future of peace keeping is now at issue. Only a few months ago, the United Nations narrowly avoided a confrontation over that issue. I am glad to say that saner counsel prevailed. A special committee is now looking into all aspects of peace keeping with the object of arriving at a sound and broadly acceptable basis for the future.

* I am hopeful that at least the basic elements of a consensus will emerge from the work of the committee. Such a consensus, as I see it, might be reached on some or all of the following propositions:

* First, the United Nations must be restored to financial health. This is a matter of liquidating past debts. I should hope that it is also a matter of not permitting a recurrence of the present situation in the future.

* Second, the United Nations must be enabled to maintain the capacity to act in emergencies. The primary responsibility in this regard is acknowledged to rest with the Security Council. But if the Security Council is unable, for any reason, to act in such a situation, the General Assembly should not be prevented from recommending appropriate action to safeguard the peace. For all governments have, in the last resort, a common interest in taking measures to halt the spread of local conflicts before the major powers are confronted with the alternatives of retreat or world chaos.

* Third, there should be an acceptance of the principle of shared responsibility in financing peace-keeping operations in all cases where the permanent members of the Security Council agree to their being undertaken. In those cases, the General Assembly would apportion the expenses, taking due account of the principle of capacity to pay. If a permanent member were to object to an operation, some modification of the principle of shared responsibility might have to be accepted.

* Fourth, there is a need for continuing efforts to improve the technical capacity of the United Nations to act in situations of emergency. This has its counterpart in suitable arrangements being made by member states to co-operate with the United Nations before such situations arise.

* Canada, for its part, will continue to do all it can to strengthen the peace-keeping capacities of the United Nations. We shall do so by working towards a settlement of the wider political issues in the Special Committee. We shall also do so by improving, where possible, the practical arrangements which must be made in any event if the United Nations is to continue to respond to requests for the provision of international forces to preserve or restore peace around the world.