

in the Middle East perhaps illustrates most graphically the nature of our dilemma. The Security Council unanimously adopted in November 1967 a resolution which imposed an equitable balance of obligation on all the parties to the dispute. Its full implementation could have restored peace to the Middle East. Yet today the conflict continues to rage.

We can do more, I am convinced, to improve the machinery to head off disputes before they erupt into open warfare. This is why Canada is urging forward the peacekeeping studies being carried on in the Committee of 33. In a working group of that Committee, a concerted effort has been made during the past year to develop a "model" for the conduct of military observation missions authorized by the Security Council. As a participant in this study, we have been encouraged by what has been accomplished, but at the same time we are disappointed that the possibilities for much greater progress have not been realized. Once the model for an observation mission has been completed, the working group should go on to develop models for other kinds of peacekeeping operations.

These are difficult problems, with political, legal and financial implications. Perhaps, as a representative of a country with a certain experience in peacekeeping operations, I might offer a comment. It is essential that these problems should be given urgent consideration. There are many real risks in dispatching peacekeeping forces in moments of crisis without having worked out the necessary arrangements in advance. (Our experience with peacekeeping forces reinforces that conclusion.) The Committee of 33 have been helpful in drawing attention to the questions that must be answered. They have been less successful in providing the answer. Meanwhile, Canada is continuing, in the face of discouragingly slow political progress in Cyprus, to participate in the peacekeeping operation there, as well as in the United Nations peace -- observation missions in Palestine and Kashmir.

Madame President, there is so much to be done to ease the suffering and misery of the innocent civilians who get caught up in the vortex of war. It was for this reason that Canada joined with Norway at the recent Red Cross Conference in Istanbul in urging the adoption of a declaration of principles on international humanitarian relief to civilian populations in disaster areas. Two other related resolutions, also co-sponsored by Canada, were adopted at the Conference. One of these resolutions established a committee to devise workable rules to supplement existing humanitarian law. The other resolution focused the attention of this new committee on non-international armed conflicts.

The Canadian Government has lent its full support to efforts by the Red Cross to go further than has heretofore proven possible to build a system of legal as well as moral standards of humanitarian behavior. We are extremely gratified at the success achieved at the Red Cross Conference and we pledge to do our utmost to follow up the Conference decisions with specific action.

The second great goal of the United Nations is to bring economic and social justice to the world by providing an opportunity for the developing countries to escape the treadmill of poverty on which so many are trapped. If we can liberate the creative and productive powers of the untold numbers of men and women whose energies are now bound up in the struggle to exist, the future horizons of mankind are immensely enlarged. There are many who say that such a goal is utopian. I say that the words of the United Nations Charter are testimony that for a generation the world's leaders have believed that it is attainable.